CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course title: Advanced Topics in Thai Language
Course code: THAI 3001 THPH
Programs offering course: Community Public Health
Language of instruction: Thai
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 65
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description
This course is offered for students who can demonstrate a diverse use of vocabulary, a solid understanding of grammar patterns, and clear pronunciation. The aim of the course is (1) to advance students’ communication capabilities in reading and writing at both casual and academic levels, and (2) to improve student’s verbal communication skills in order to participate effectively in conversations on a variety of topics in formal and informal settings, (3) to use the issues that the program looks at as tools to understand other ways of life while staying in various communities. Course materials are taken from current literature sources, newspapers, and current articles on focus issues. The course content is divided into two parts. The first part, students will be expected to advance in verbal and written communication skills and be able to summarize the main ideas of the passages or dialogues they listen to or read, and comment about them. For the second part, students will learn about specific topics in accordance with the issues examined in the core course.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:

- Students will master enough of the target language to be able to understand and make basic requests, to describe, in basic terms, places, people, events, and their needs and feelings, and to meet their daily needs and interact with locals on a daily basis.
- Students will learn culturally important expressions and use them in them appropriate contexts.
- Students will demonstrate their willingness, confidence, and skill in engaging actively and independently in the host culture by initiating conversations in the target language with staff, fellow students and locals on a regular basis.
- Students will be able to demonstrate via pre- and post-testing based on ACTFL guidelines that they have improved at least two ACTFL sublevels in their ability to describe, narrate, evaluate, and persuade on familiar topics (i.e. demonstrate increased fluency, accuracy, and appropriate use of language).

In order to determine how well students demonstrate competency in learning Thai on this program, students will have an oral proficiency test based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) guidelines twice during the semester. The aim of this assessment is to help students reflect on their progress in Thai and know their language proficiency level in the event of further Thai study.

Students will take a pre- and post-program test.

The format of testing will be a 20-30 minute response to visual prompts and simulated situations. The test will allow the students enough time to complete the task without intervention. The student’s
performance will be compared to the criteria outlined in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012 – Speaking as well as the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) scale. The comparison of ACTFL and ILR proficiency scales are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ILR Scale</th>
<th>ACTFL Scale</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Distinguished</td>
<td>Able to use language skillfully, and with accuracy, efficiency, and effectiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Superior</td>
<td>Able to communicate with accuracy and fluency in order to participate fully and effectively in conversations on a variety of topics in formal and  informal settings from both concrete and abstract perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advanced - High</td>
<td>Able to discuss some topics abstractly, especially those relating to their particular interests and special fields of expertise, but in general, they are more comfortable discussing a variety of topics concretely</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced - Mid</td>
<td>Able to contribute to conversations on a variety of familiar topics, dealt with concretely, with much accuracy, clarity and precision, and they convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced - Low</td>
<td>Able to contribute to the conversation with sufficient accuracy, clarity, and precision to convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Intermediate - High</td>
<td>Able to handle successfully uncomplicated tasks and social situations requiring an exchange of basic information related to their work, school, recreation, particular interests, and areas of competence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate - Mid</td>
<td>Able to handle successfully a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. But conversation is generally limited to those predictable and concrete exchanges necessary for survival in the target culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate - Low</td>
<td>Able to handle successfully a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks by communicating with the language in straightforward social situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Novice - High</td>
<td>Able to respond to simple, direct questions or requests for information. They are also able to ask a few formulaic questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novice - Mid</td>
<td>Able to communicate minimally by using a number of isolated words and memorized phrases limited by the particular context in which the language has been learned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novice - Low</td>
<td>Have no real functional ability and, because of their pronunciation, may be unintelligible</td>
<td></td>
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**Course Prerequisites**

Intermediate Thai I & II

**Methods of Instruction**

- Regular classroom instruction involving structured practice with CIEE language instructors.
- Extra classroom instruction involving structured practice with assigned peer tutors.
- Assignments connected to community stays and interactive activities outside the classroom.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

1. Assignment & Quizzes 25%
2. Midterm Exam 25%
3. Final Exam 20%
4. Term Paper 10%
5. Thai Oral Presentation 10%
6. Participation 10%

**Course Requirements**

**Assignment & Quizzes**

In order to promote students’ speaking and writing fluency, advanced Thai students are assigned 3 oral and writing assignments connected to their homestay to reflect their experience. The assignments require that students interview local people in the homestay to learn their ways of life and write up the story and present to the teachers. The objective is to increase writing skill, self-confidence, relaxation for speaking to native speakers, enjoyment, and improvement in speaking Thai.

Thai quiz is performed in a form of student giving answers in writing form. The questions include different syntactical/grammatical structures of Thai language learned in class following with writing prompts essay by choosing one of the provided topics.

As part of the Thai language course, we provide “Thai Fun Activity” sessions where students have fun while using the language through various activities. You will enjoy these fun activities with your Thai instructors and other people that work with the program.

As a supplement to classroom language instruction, peer tutors are provided for the linguistic needs of each individual, including listening, speaking, pronunciation, tones, grammar, reading, writing, vocabulary expansion, etc. These mandatory, one-on-one language tutorials provide extra conversational practice and help with homework assignments. Students and tutors meet for nine
sessions of structured practice for an average of 1 hour per session. If you have any problems working with your assigned peer tutors, or you would like optional, extra peer tutor hours, please contact the instructor.

**Midterm Exam**

Student gives answer to describe and write opinion on academic reading comprehension stories from academic articles, entertainment, science and technology or myths. Student is also asked to write opinion answer on different styles of writing for example; persuasive, convincing, compare, narrative and expository. Student is also tested his/her speaking skill to give verbal answer to structured questions in order to practice elaborating on arguments or reasons that support the opinion or point of view in Thai language.

**Final Exam**

**Term Paper**

After all the topical learning sessions, students must choose one topic they are interested in for further study in order to write a 1,000-word term paper as their final project, with appropriate use of words and grammatical patterns.

**Thai Oral Presentation**

In the final week of the program, students must prepare a Thai oral presentation. This is an effective communicative activity to promote their oral proficiency and increase their confidence in speaking Thai. Students will be evaluated by teachers and other students. The objectives of the activity are:

- To provide a stimulating experience for students in training themselves to have confidence while speaking in public
- To help bridge the gap between language study and language use
- To be able to collect, inquire, organize and construct information
- To provide opportunity to enhance team work
- To help students become active and autonomous learners

**Participation**

Students may be excused from class only with the permission of the Resident Director. Students who miss class for medical reasons, they have to contact the Language Director to schedule the make-up class. In case of unexcused absences, it may affect their participation grades and there is no special assistance for catching up with the lesson. Participation is the key to progress. Students are expected to be active learners and should contribute to class activities and various exercises.

* The topic for each class will be determined by student’s ability in Thai. However, advance Thai classes will be focused on

Part I – Reinforces and strengthen students’ knowledge of the Thai language.

Part II – Learning Specific Topics
** * Readings for this course will be selected from current articles from newspapers and magazines at the time that students are on the program.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class 1.1 Introduction

Thai competency test

Class 1.2 Lesson 1

Article “Bear Raiser”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Synonyms in Thai
- Reviewing sentence structure

Assignment:

- Write a 250 words letter to your friend about “My Favorite Pet”

Reading


Class 1.3 Thai Fun Activity 1

Participating in “Bingo” to review numbers.

**Week 2**

Class 2.1 Lesson 2

Article “Mom’s Secret”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Words with silent letters
- Borrowed words from other languages
- Types of sentences

Assignment:

- Read “Grandpa’s Story” and answer the questions.

Reading:

- Ministry of Education (1993, 29-37; 48-49)
Class 2.2  Lesson 3

Article “Good People in Rattanakosin”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Words with difficult pronunciation
- Consonants clusters
- Initials

Assignment:

- Prepare a 5 minutes talk on “Your Favorite Books”

Reading

- Ministry of Education (1993, 50-58)

Class 2.3  Lesson 4

Article “New Home for the Hermit Crab”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Words with “”
- Adjectives

Assignment:

- Main idea from the story “New Home for the Hermit Crab”
- Write 250 words describing “My Family Home”
- Reading
- Ministry of Education (1993, 78-90)

Week 3

Class 3.1 Quiz 1

Class 3.2 Lesson 5

Article “Friendship”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Arranging paragraph
- Note Taking

Assignment:

- Write 250 words describing “My Best Friend”

Reading
• Ministry of Education (1993, 120-128)

Week 4
Class 4.1 Lesson 6

Article “Local Leisure Activities”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

• Simple Poem
• Words with “silent h”
• Punctuation marks

Assignment:

• Write 2 stanzas poem on any topic

Reading


Class 4.2 Lesson 7

Article “My Computer”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

• Sentence connectors
• Writing chronology

Assignment:

• Write a chronology of an important event

Reading

• Ministry of Education (1993, 162-176)

Week 5
Class 5.1 Review for Midterm

Class 5.2 Thai Midterm

Week 6
Class 6.1 Lesson 8

Article “Phra Aphaimanee” (Poem)

In this lesson, students will be learning about:
• Different level of language use

Assignment:

• Choose two stanzas from the story and translate into English poem

Reading

• Ministry of Education (1993, 188-201)

Class 6.2 Public Health Vocabulary

Article “Grateful Daughter Taking Care of Disabled Father”

• True/False exercise

Assignment: Preparation for community visit 1 presentation

Reading:

• Ministry of Education, n.d.: 14-15

Week 7

Class No class

Week 8

Class 8.1 Presentation of Community Visit 1

Class 8.2 Public Health Vocabulary

Article “Aka Child Fell into Hot Spring”

• Summary of text

Assignment: Preparation for community visit 1 presentation

Reading:

• Ministry of Education, n.d.: 23-24

Class 8.3 Thai Fun Activity 2

Market

Week 9

Class 9.1 Public Health Vocabulary

Article “5 Female Military Officers helped Women from Drowning”

• Multiple Choice
Assignment: Preparation for international trip presentation

Reading:


**Week 10**
Class  | No class

**Week 11**
Class  | 11.1 Presentation from Laos and Grammar

**Week 12**
Class  | No class

**Week 13**
Class  | No class

**Week 14**
Class  | 14.1 Presentation and Grammar
Class  | 14.2 Review for Thai Final

**Week 15**
Class  | 15.1 Thai Final

**Course Materials**

**Readings**

Ministry of Education (1993), Basic Thai Language: Primary 4 Book 1, BKK: Kurusapa Printing Ladphrao (in Thai)