CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course title: Beginning Thai I  
Course code: THAI 1001 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 Thai Language course has been designed to help students develop language skills and acquire cultural knowledge so that students can be confident in social situations while living in Thailand. Instruction includes an emphasis on listening and speaking, the use of only the target language, the use of visuals to illustrate meaning, and the use of games and activities for additional practice. However, the basic Thai consonants and vowels will be introduced to facilitate pronunciation and language acquisition. The course content consists of two aspects. They are the basics of Thai language for everyday use and the issue-specific language for community stays. Students will learn basic Thai vocabulary and structures through classes focusing on conversation with the use of intensive oral instruction. Within the context of everyday life experiences, students practice dialogue and engage in interactive homework assignments, as well as games and activities. When possible, teachers will also use local communities as the medium for language practice. On the other hand, students will learn different vocabulary in accordance with the issues examined in the core course and practice language they will use during community stays. It will help students understand more vocabulary and gain grammatical knowledge in order to increase their communicative competence through field work in various communities. The aim of this course is to help students build their confidence in living in Thailand and in using the issues that the program looks at as tools for them to interact with villagers and understand their ways of life and health situations while staying in various communities.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- understand, make basic requests, and meet daily needs by communicating in Thai
- be able to describe, narrate, and ask/answer questions in Thai about a variety of topics related to family, daily activities, eating, and traveling.
- feel comfortable using Thai language in any setting
- learn and use the 'Issue-Based' language as a tool to discuss with and understand local villagers' ways of life, as well as health situations.

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.

The format of testing will be a 15-20 minute response to visual prompts and simulated situations. It will be an online test which allows 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>
</tr>
<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>
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<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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></td>
<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></td>
<td>Novice - Low</td>
<td>Have no real functional ability and, because of their pronunciation, may be unintelligible</td>
</tr>
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Course Prerequisites
No previous courses are required for this course. However, students will encounter difficulties as Thai is a new language to them. Therefore, concentration and effort are necessary tools for them to overcome obstacles to learning.

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. Assignments 15%
2. Quiz I & Quiz II 15%
3. Midterm Exam 20%
4. Final Exam 20%
5. Thai Video Production 15%
6. Participation 15%
   TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Assignments

The components of outside work are homework, assignments, and structured activities.

Oral Presentation Assignment – In order to promote students’ speaking fluency, students are assigned 3 oral assignments connected to their homestay unit by talking under the given topics for example “my Thai host family from Agriculture Unit” or “My Favourite Day in Laos”. The objective is to increase self-confidence, relaxation, enjoyment, and improvement in speaking Thai.

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 eight 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.

Quiz I & Quiz II

Quiz I

Thailand quiz is performed in a form one-on-one teacher and student responding to series of questions. The questions include different syntactical/grammatical structures of Thai language learned in class. The teacher reads each sentence aloud for the students to respond which will be recorded in the sound recorder for scoring.
Assessment

Speaking

1. Able to give responses 10%
2. Sentence structure 10%
3. Pronunciation – tones 5%
4. Sound quality – initial, ending, vowels 5%
5. Vocabulary use – wide variety and accuracy 5%

Listening

1. Listening Comprehension 15%

Quiz II (Pair Oral Presentation)

Students work in pairs to come up with an oral presentation under the given topic “My Favorite people in Khon Kaen”. Students are assigned 2-3 weeks before the presentation day. Among their pair, they decide their own presentation style with their peers by using the previous lesson vocabularies to describe their favourite locals. In this pair oral presentation, students not only learn to come up with structured talk and teamwork but they also have opportunities to practice Thai by interviewing their favourite people to collect the information for the presentation.

Assessment

1. Sentence structure 5%
2. Pronunciation: comprehensible, intonation 5%
3. Vocabulary: accuracy and variety 5%
4. Content: coherent, interesting, adequate 5%
5. Fluency: speech, voice, clarity, pace 5%
6. Visual aids: creative, relevant to the content 5%
7. Interactive communication: eye contact, lively, well-prepared 5%
8. Able to give responses to follow up question 5%

Thai Final Presentation

In the final week of the program, students must prepare a Thai oral presentation reflecting about their study abroad experience in Thailand in front of their classmates, Thai teachers and peer tutors. This oral presentation is an effective communicative activity to promote students’ oral proficiency and increase their confidence in speaking Thai language. Students will be evaluated from Thai language teachers and response to questions regarding their own story.

Assessment

1. Sentence structure 5%
2. Pronunciation: comprehensible, intonation 5%
3. Vocabulary: accuracy and variety 5%
4. Content: organization, interesting and creative 5%
5. Fluency: speech, voice, clarity, pace 5%
6. Visual aids: Adequate, creative and related to the topic 5%
7. Able to give respond (3 questions) 5%

Midterm Exam
Thai midterm is a similar form of Thai quiz which students respond to series of questions with a teacher. However, the questions of midterm are structures with more complex form of questions than the quiz. Also, after the student respond to questions, they ask their prepared 3 questions to teachers without note.

**Assessment**

**Speaking**

1. Able to give responses 20%
2. Sentence structure 15%
3. Pronunciation –tones 10%
4. Sound quality—initials, endings, vowels 15%
5. Vocabulary use – wide variety 10%

**Listening**

1. Listening Comprehension 20%

**Asking questions**

1. Questions 5%
2. Comprehensibility 5%
3. Sentence structure 5%
4. Creativity 5%

**Final Exam**

**Thai Video Production**

**Participation**

Participation is the key to progress. Students are expected to be active learners and should contribute to class activities and various exercises.

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.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class 1.1 Lesson 1 Part 1

“My name is Jim”.

- Greet and introducing themselves
- Asking someone’s name and country they are from.

Reading:
Class 1.2 Lesson 1 Part 2

“My name is Jim”.

• Exchange personal information.

Reading:

• Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 7-11

Class 1.3 Thai Fun Activity 1

Learning about numbers through game.

“Bingo and numbers”

Week 2

Class 2.1 Lesson 2

“Jim is Enjoying Thai Food”

• Glossary of food, cooking, and drink
• Ordering a meal in the restaurant
• Thai and I-Saan Traditional food

Reading

• Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 13-26

Class 2.2 Peer Tutor 1

Week 3

Class No class

Week 4

Class 4.1 Lesson 3

“Jim’s Family”

• Family members
• Occupations and livelihood

Reading:

• Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 28-37

Class 4.2 Lesson 4
“How does Jim spend his days?”

- Clock time
- Part of the day
- Period of time
- Talking about your daily routine

Reading:
- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 39-52

Class 4.3  Peer Tutor 2

Class 4.4  Quiz I

**Week 5**

Class 5.1  Lesson 5

“Where was Jim yesterday?”

- Present, past, and future events
- Leisure-time activities

Reading:
- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 54-63

Class 5.2  Lesson 6

“Jim is at the market”

- Clothing and personal items
- Color and size
- Shopping at the market
- Recipe

Reading:
- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 65-73

Class 5.3  Peer Tutor 3

Class 5.4  Lesson 7

“Where is the bookstore?”

- Asking about location
- Asking for direction
Week 6
Class 6.1 Review for Midterm
Class 6.2 Peer Tutor IV
Class 6.3 Thai Midterm
Class 6.4 Public Health Vocab I
  • Sicknesses and diseases
Reading:
  • Handouts in class by teachers
Class 6.5 Thai Fun Activity II (Thai Cooking Contest)

Week 7
Class 7.1 Lesson 8
  Presentation of Community Visit 1 and Vocabulary
  “How do you feel?”
  • Feeling expressions
Reading:
  • Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 85-90
Class 7.2 Lesson 9
  Presentation of Community Visit 3 and Vocabulary
  “Jim has a Terrible Cold”
  • Health problems
  • Medications and remedies
Homework assignment: Prepare presentation about International Trip
Reading:
  • Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 92-99
Class 7.3 Lesson 10

Presentation from International Trip

“Jim is Very Handsome”
  • Describing appearances and personalities

Reading:
  • Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 101-109

Class 7.4 Peer Tutor V

Week 8
Class 8.1 Public Health Vocab
  • Vocab on health data collection

Reading:
  • Handouts in class by teachers

Class 8.2 Peer Tutor VI

Class 8.3 Quiz II

Week 9
Class 9.1 Lesson 11

Presentation of Community Visit 5 and Vocabulary

“Jim’s House”
  • Describing home
  • Household items

Reading:
  • Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 111-122

Week 10
Class 10.1 Presentation from Community Stay

Class 10.2 Thai Fun Activity III

Class 10.3 Travelling
• Hotel Reservation
• Reserving tickets
• Review vocab on asking for direction

Reading:

• Handouts in class by teachers

Week 11
Class No class

Week 12
Class 12.1 Presentation from International trip
Class 12.2 Peer Tutor VII

Week 13
Class No class

Week 14
Class 14.1 Peer Tutor VIII
Class 14.2 Review for Thai Final

Week 15
Class 15.1 Thai Final Presentation

Course Materials

Readings

Online Resources

“Beginning Thai audio and video-clips” provide the vocabulary, patterns, and dialogues of each lesson
http://thai.cieek.org/