CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course name: Beginning Thai
Course number: THAI 1001 TPH
Programs offering course: Khon Kaen Community Public Health
Language of instruction: Thai
U.S. Semester Credits: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours
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:
Throughout the 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>
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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>
</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>
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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. Also, there are classroom rules and other items that students must be aware of beforehand.

1. No English whatsoever may be spoken in the classroom! Please help to maintain a Thai language atmosphere. It is frustrating sometimes, but the goal is to have you stay engaged in Thai. If you must express frustration, ask your teacher afterwards to give you some Thai phrases of frustration. After the class is concluded, you may ask your teachers questions that you may still have in English. If you speak any English during class, the teacher will ask you to leave the room or study area. However, in certain cases, the teacher may use English or give you permission to use English.

2. Clear the table or your desk (and your hands) before class. It is important that you clear away any possible distractions including pens, candies, notebooks, etc. Only water is allowed, but please fill your water container before the class begins or during the break.

3. Be on time. If you come late or miss class, you have to make up the lesson by yourself. The teacher won’t wait for you if you’re late. You can come into the room during a break.

4. On pronunciation:
   - If your pronunciation is very good, the teacher will tell you, “Dee maak” (Very good).
   - If your pronunciation is fair, the teacher will tell you, “Dee” (Good).
   - If your pronunciation is wrong, the teacher will try to help you a bit in class. But if you can’t get it, the teacher will go on without saying, “Dee maak” or “Dee.”

5. Special help for pronunciation: beginning students of Thai often have difficulties pronouncing certain Thai sounds. For instance, native English speakers often have a problem with an initial “ng” sound in Thai while native Chinese speakers have a problem with an initial “g” sound in Thai. If the teacher recognizes that you are having particular problems with certain sounds, he or she may ask that you spend some special time with pronunciation.

6. On questions in English: if you have any questions that you want to ask in English, please ask the teacher during the break or after class. However, questions in Thai can be asked in class.

7. On writing something down: please do it only during the break, after class, or when the teacher allows it. At first, trust your ears.

8. Class attendance: You may be excused from class only with the permission of the Resident Director. Students who miss class for medical reasons, you have to contact the Language Director to schedule the make-up class. In case of unexcused absences, it may affect your participation grades and there is no special assistance for catching up with the lesson.

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

Course Requirements:
- **In class**: Participation is the key to progress. Students are expected to be active learners and should contribute to class activities and various exercises.
- **Outside class**: The components of outside work are homework, assignments, and structured activities as follows:

1. **Thai Video Production**
The Thai Video Presentation will be used as a communication activity to promote oral proficiency. Student groups must produce a 15-20 minute video in Thai. Students will be evaluated by teachers and their peers. The objectives of the activity are:
   - To give students an opportunity to create their own films.
   - To help students self-monitor their current speaking ability and to raise their awareness of their learning and using Thai.
   - To utilize spontaneous Thai skills and strategies for authentic communication outside the class.
   - To provide opportunity to enhance teamwork.
   - To reflect their perspective and experience.

2. **Pair-recording**
Students practice fluency by recording themselves speaking freely in pairs. They have to record to the time provided by instructor and change partners every time. The objective is to increase self-confidence, relaxation, enjoyment, and improvement in speaking Thai. Also, students have a concrete record of their progress.

3. **Thai Fun Activity (TFA)**
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.

4. **Peer tutors**
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 Ajaan Nidnoi.
Weekly Schedule

Week 1
1.1 Lesson 1 Part 1
“My name is Jim”.
   - Greet and introducing themselves
   - Asking someone’s name and country they are from.
Reading:
   - Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 2-6

1.2 Lesson 1 Part 2
“My name is Jim”.
   - Exchange personal information.
Reading:
   - Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 7-11

1.3 Thai Fun Activity 1
Learning about numbers through game.
“My Bingo and numbers”

Week 2
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

2.2 Peer Tutor 1

Week 3
No class

Week 4
4.1 Lesson 3
“Jim’s Family”
   - Family members
   - Occupations and livelihood
Reading:
   - Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 28-37

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

4.3 Peer Tutor 2
4.4 Quiz 1

Week 5
5.1 Lesson 5
“Where was Jim yesterday?”
• Present, past, and future events
• Leisure-time activities
Reading:
• Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 54-63

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

5.3 Peer Tutor 3
5.4 Lesson 7
“Where is the bookstore?”
• Asking about location
• Asking for direction
Reading:
• Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 75-83

Week 6
6.1 Review for Midterm
6.2 Peer Tutor IV
6.3 Thai Midterm
6.4 Public Health Vocab I
• Sicknesses and diseases
Reading:
• Handouts in class by teachers
Week 7

7.1 Lesson 8
Presentation of Community Visit 1 and Vocabulary
“How do you feel?”
• Feeling expressions
Reading:
  • Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 85-90

7.2 Lesson 9
Presentation of Community Visit 3 and Vocabulary
“How Jim has a Terrible Cold”
• Health problems
• Medications and remedies
Homework assignment: Prepare presentation about International Trip
Reading:
  • Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 92-99

7.3 Lesson 10
Presentation from International Trip
“Jim is Very Handsome”
• Describing appearances and personalities
Reading:
  • Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 101-109

7.4 Peer Tutor V

Week 8

8.1 Public Health Vocab
• Vocab on health data collection
Reading:
  • Handouts in class by teachers

8.2 Peer Tutor VI

8.3 Quiz II

Week 9

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
10.1 Presentation from Community Stay
10.2 Thai Fun Activity III
10.3 Travelling
   • Hotel Reservation
   • Reserving tickets
   • Review vocab on asking for direction
Reading:
   • Handouts in class by teachers

Week 11
No class

Week 12
12.1 Presentation from International trip
12.2 Peer Tutor VII

Week 13
No class

Week 14
14.1 Peer Tutor VIII
14.2 Review for Thai Final

Week 15
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.cieekk.org/