CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course name: Advanced Topics in Thai Language
Course number: THAI 3001 THPH
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 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
• 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 skilfully, 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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. Participation 10%
2. Assignment & Quizzes 25%
3. Midterm exam 25%
4. Final exam 20%
5. Term paper 10%
6. Thai Oral Presentation 10%

Course Requirements
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

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 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.
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 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 Ajaan Nidnoi.

Attendance and Class Participation
Students may be excused from class only with the permission of the Center Director. Students who miss class for medical reasons, they have to contact the Language Coordinator 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.

Weekly Schedule
* 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.

Week 1
  1.1 Introduction
      Thai competency test
  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
      • Ministry of Education (1993, 1-8)
  1.3 Thai Fun Activity 1
      Participating in “Bingo” to review numbers.

Week 2
  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)

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)

2.3 Lesson 4
Article “New Home for the Hermit Crab”
In this lesson, students will be learning about:
• Words with “รร”
• 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
3.1 Quiz 1

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
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

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
5.1 Review for Midterm

5.2 Thai Midterm

Week 6
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)

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
No class
Week 8
  8.1 Presentation of Community Visit 1
  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
  8.3 Thai Fun Activity 2
     Market

Week 9
  9.1 Public Health Vocabulary
     Article “5 Female Military Officers helped Women from Drowning”
        • Multiple Choice
     Assignment: Preparation for international trip presentation
     Reading:
        • Ministry of Education, n.d.: 23-24

Week 10
No class

Week 11
  11.1 Presentation from Laos and Grammar

Week 12
No class

Week 13
No class

Week 14
  14.1 Presentation and Grammar
  14.2 Review for Thai Final

Week 15
  15.1 Thai Final

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