



CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course name:	Beginning Thai Language and Culture
Course number:	THAI 1001 KKTH
Programs offering course:	Khon Kaen Summer Community Public Health
Language of instruction:	English, Thai
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2019

Course Description

This course has been designed to provide students with the Thai language skills and cultural knowledge needed for everyday life while staying in Thailand. Through lively and interactive classes, students will learn basic Thai vocabulary and structures for everyday use. Instruction includes an emphasis on listening and speaking with the use of intensive oral instruction, the use of only the target language, the use of visuals to illustrate meaning, and the use of games and activities for additional practice. Within the context of everyday life, students have opportunities to practice dialogue and experience Thai culture through interactive activities and homework assignments outside of the classroom. This course will also explore culture in general and Thai culture specifically; goal of this aspect of the course is for students to effectively function a cross-cultural environment.

In this class, students will acquire intercultural concept and skills to apply to their daily experience in Thailand. Active reflection will help deepen their understanding of the complexity and diversity of Thai values and cultural practices, encourage them to develop a more nuanced awareness of cultural background, and help them develop the ability to handle intercultural interaction successfully.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand, make basic requests, and meet daily needs by communicating in Thai
- Feel comfortable using Thai language in any setting
- Recognize and articulate aspects of Thai culture, compare it with their own cultural values, shift and bridge between these two cultures
- Develop cultural self-awareness.
- Develop cultural knowledge and understanding of local cultural norms, values, and behaviors.
- Develop skills for cultural bridging.
- Acquire and deepen cultural concepts such as global citizenship, cultural values, cultural dimensions and stereotyping.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

In order to determine how well students demonstrate competency in learning Thai on this program, students will complete 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 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.

In the culture class, students will collaborate with classmates, the course instructor, and a local cultural partner. Each class will begin with a brief check-in, allowing students to bring questions and comments to the group. Through readings, field reports, discussions, and experiential assignments, they will be supported and challenge to better adapt to daily life in Thailand. This class is largely experiential, meaning that the bulk of the time will be spent in structured activity, with less focus on lecture than in a traditional classroom.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Attendance and Class Participation	10%
2. Language Assignments	10%
3. Language Quiz	10%
4. Midterm Language Exam	15%
5. Thai Final Exam	20%
6. Cultural Stretching Assignment	20%
7. Take-home Final Exam	15%

Course Requirements

Homework, Assignments, and Structured Activities

These course requirements will include the following:

- Pair-Recording - Students practice fluency by recording themselves speaking freely in pairs. They have to record once a week and change partners every week. The objective is to increase self-confidence, relaxation, enjoyment, and improvement in speaking Thai. Also, students have a concrete record of their progress.
- 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.
- Cultural Stretching Assignment: Using an adapted model of the Cultural Spectra, students identify which Thai cultural values is most different from their own, lay out a plan for "stretching" themselves and their perspectives to where they can encounter such differences with equanimity, and describing the process in written or other form.

Attendance and Class 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.



Weekly Schedule

Week 1

- 1.1 Greetings & introducing oneself
- 1.2 Thai Fun Activity I (TFA I—Thai Bingo)
- 1.3 CC Session 1: Name Game, Learning Styles, and Goals

Week 2

- 2.1 Ordering food and drinks
- 2.2 Talk about family, occupation, age, pet, etc.
- 2.3 CC Session 2: Global Citizen Discussion

Week 3

- 3.1 Telling time and daily life routines
- 3.2 CC Session 3: Stereotype and Generalization/D.I.E.
- 3.3 Shopping and bargaining

Week 4

- 4.1 TFA II (Survival in the market)
- 4.2 Days of a week, leisure activities & hobbies
- 4.3 Asking for directions
- 4.4 CC Session 4: Cultural Values Spectra/Cultural Stretching

Week 5

- 5.1 Feeling expression
- 5.2 Body parts & health problems

Week 6

- 6.1 Travelling (booking tickets and hotel room)
- 6.2 CC Session 5: Cultural Detective
- 6.3 Grammar focus

Week 7

- 7.1 Appearance and personality
- 7.2 Thai Final Review

Week 8



8.1 Thai Final Exam

Course Materials

Readings

Bennett, M.J. (1998). Overcoming the Golden Rule: Sympathy and Empathy. In M.J. Bennett, basic Concepts of intercultural communication: Selected reading (pp. 191-214). Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Bennett, M.J., Bennett, J.M. (2000). *Six U.S. American Values*. ACC, 29-34.

Carroll, R. (1990). *Cultural Misunderstanding: The French-American Experience*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

International Perspectives on U.S. Americans. In R.M. Paige, A.D. Cohen, B.K. Mikk, J. C. Chi & J. P. Lassegard (2002), *Maximizing Study Abroad: A Students' Guide to Strategies for Language and Culture Learning and Use* (pp. I-1 – I-2). Minneapolis: CARLA.

Ogden, A. (Winter 2007-8). The View From the Veranda. *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*, 35-55.

Plous, S. (2003). *Understanding Prejudice and Discrimination*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Rattanakhemakorn, Jintana. *Easy Thai: Learn to Speak Thai Quickly*. Vermont: Tuttle Publishing, 2014.

Rattanakhemakorn, Jintana. *Real Thai, Real Thailand: Thai for Beginners*. Khon Kaen, Thailand: Council on International Educational Exchange, 2011.

Zemach-Bersin, T. (2008, March 7). Americans Students Abroad Can't be Global Citizens. *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Online Resources

Brook, D. (2011, March 7). The New Humanism. Retrieved June 30, 2011, from The New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/08/opinion/08brooks.html>

LaBrack, B. (n.d.). U.S. American Values. Retrieved June 30, 2011, from What's Up With Culture? Online Cultural Training Resource for Study Abroad: <http://www.pacific.edu/SIS/culture/index.htm>

McKeever, M. (2011, May 18). The Brain and Emotional Intelligence: An Interview with Daniel Goleman. Retrieved June 30, 2011, from Tricycle: <http://www.tricycle.com/blog/brain-and-emotional-intelligence-interview-daniel-goleman>

Media Resources

Rattanakhemakorn, Jintana. "Beginning Thai audio".
<http://cieekk.mooo.com/class/course/view.php?id=4>



Rakmanee,Somkiat. "Thai as a Foreign Language Knowledgebase".
<http://pirun.ku.ac.th/~fhumskr/>