



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.

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:

ILR Scale	ACTFL Scale	Definition
5	Distinguished	Able to use language skillfully, and with accuracy, efficiency, and effectiveness
4	Superior	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
3	Advanced - High	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
	Advanced - Mid	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
	Advanced - Low	Able to contribute to the conversation with sufficient accuracy, clarity, and precision to convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion
2	Intermediate - High	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
	Intermediate - Mid	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
	Intermediate - Low	Able to handle successfully a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks by communicating with the language in straightforward social situations
1	Novice - High	Able to respond to simple, direct questions or requests for information. They are also able to ask a few formulaic questions
	Novice - Mid	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
	Novice - Low	Have no real functional ability and, because of their pronunciation, may be unintelligible

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.

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.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Class Participation	10%
2. Language Assignments	10%
3. Language Quiz	10%
4. Midterm Language Exam	15%
5. Thai Final Presentation	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:

- Oral Presentation - Students practice fluency by talking under the give topics for example "my Thai host family" or "my daily basis in Khon Kaen". The objective is to increase self-confidence, relaxation, enjoyment, and improvement in speaking Thai.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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 forms.

Thai Quiz

Thai quiz is a one-on-one type quiz between the teacher and student. Students will respond to a series of questions asked by the teacher. The questions include different syntactical/grammatical structures of Thai language learned in class. The quiz will be recorded scoring.

Thai midterm

Thai midterm is similar to Thai quiz in which students respond to a series of questions. However, the questions of the midterm are more complex forms of questions. Students are also required to prepare 3 questions to ask the teachers.

Thai Final Presentation

In the final week of the program, students must prepare a Thai oral presentation on their experience in Thailand and present in front of their classmates, teachers, and peer tutors. This oral presentation is an effective activity to help promote students’ oral proficiency and increase their confidence in speaking Thai. Students will be evaluated the Thai teachers and their responses to the questions regarding their own story.

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

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|-----|---|
| 1.1 | Lesson 1
“My name is Jim”. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greet and introducing themselves• Asking someone’s name and country they are from. Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 1-11 |
| 1.2 | Thai Fun Activity 1
Learning about Thai numbers through game.
“Thai Bingo” |
| 1.3 | 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

1.4 Peer Tutor 1

1.5 Lesson 3 Part I

“Jim’s Family”

- Family members, pets
- Age

Reading

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 28-31

1.6 ICL Session 1: Global Citizen

Reading:

- American students abroad can’t be ‘global citizens (Zemach-Bersin, 2008).

Week 2

2.1 Lesson 3 Part II

“Jim’s Family”

- Occupation

Reading

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 32-37

2.2 Thai Quiz

2.3 ICL Session 2: Stereotypes and Generalizations/ D.I.E

Week 3

3.1 Lesson 4

“How does Jim spend his day?”

- Telling time and daily life routines

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 39-52

3.2 ICL Session 3: Anti-Oppression

3.3 Lesson 5

“Where was Jim yesterday?”

- Days of a week, leisure activities & hobbies

Reading



- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 53-63

Week 4

- 4.1 Lesson 6
"Shopping and bargaining"
 - Items, colors, classifiers, and how to bargainReading
 - Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 65-73
- 4.2 Thai Fun Activity II: Survival in the market
- 4.3 Thai Fun Activity III: Thai cooking
- 4.4 Lesson 7
"Where is the bookstore?"
 - Places
 - Asking about location and directionReading
 - Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 74-83

Week 5

- 5.1 Review for Thai Midterm
- 5.2 Lesson 8
"How do you feel?"
 - Feeling expressionReading
 - Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 84-90
- 5.3 Peer Tutor IV
- 5.4 Thai Midterm

Week 6

- 6.1 Lesson 9
"Jim has a terrible cold"
 - Body parts & health problemsReading
 - Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 91-99
- 6.2 Peer Tutor V

Week 7

- 7.1 Review for Final
- 7.2 ICL Session 4: Cultural Spectra



- 7.3 ICL Session 5: Cultural Detective
Assignment:
 - Cultural Stretching Final Exam

7.2 Peer Tutor VI

Week 8

8.1 Thai Final Presentation

8.2 Cultural Stretching Final Exam due

Course Materials

Readings

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

Zemach-Bersin, T. (2008). American students abroad can't be 'global citizens.'. Chronicle of Higher Education, 54(26), A34.