



## Study Center in Khon Kaen, Thailand

|                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Course name:</b>              | Beginning Thai                |
| <b>Course number:</b>            | THAI 1001 TKKU                |
| <b>Programs offering course:</b> | Development and Globalization |
| <b>Language of instruction:</b>  | Thai                          |
| <b>U.S. Semester Credits:</b>    | 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours  |
| <b>Contact Hours:</b>            | 60                            |
| <b>Term:</b>                     | Spring 2017                   |

### 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 writing system will be introduced to facilitate pronunciation and language acquisition.

The course content is divided into two parts. The first part gives students basic Thai vocabulary and structures for everyday use. The second part will help students understand more vocabulary and gain grammatical knowledge in order to increase their communicative competence in speaking Thai with people who are affected by various social and environmental issues in Thailand. The aim of this course is to help students build their confidence in living in Thailand and also to use the issues that the program looks at as tools for students to interact with villagers and understand their ways of life while staying in various communities.

### Learning Objectives

- Students will master enough of the Thai 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 and use the 'Issue-Based' language as a tool to discuss with and understand people who are affected by various social and environmental issues in Thailand.
- Students will demonstrate their willingness to use Thai and will develop their confidence and skills in every social situation by initiating conversations in the target language with staff, fellow students, and locals on a regular basis.

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 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:**

| 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

No previous courses are required for this course.

### 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**

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Participation           | 15% |
| Assignments             | 15% |
| Quiz I & Quiz II        | 15% |
| Midterm exam            | 20% |
| Final exam              | 20% |
| Thai Video Presentation | 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 team work.
- To reflect their perspective and experience.

#### 2. 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.

#### 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 1-1.5 hours per session.

### **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.



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### **Readings**

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

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