

## Study Center in Khon Kaen, Thailand

<b>Course name:</b>	Advanced Topics in Thai Language
<b>Course number:</b>	THAI 3001 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 course is offered for students who are able to converse with ease and confidence when dealing with the routine tasks and social situations of the Intermediate level; and demonstrate a clear understanding of the Thai writing system. The aim of the course is (1) to improve student's verbal communication skills in order to participate in some informal and formal conversations. (2) to enhance students' communication capabilities in reading and writing at both casual and academic levels, and (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 focuses on enhancing students' vocabulary and grammatical knowledge in order to increase their communicative competence in speaking, reading, and writing Thai. 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:**

<b>ILR Scale</b>	<b>ACTFL Scale</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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

Intermediate Thai I

## 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	10%
Assignment & Quizzes	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	20%
Term paper	10%
Thai Oral Presentation	10%

## Course Requirements

### 1. 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

### 2. 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.

### 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



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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.