

SEASSI SUMMER 2012
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
University of Wisconsin - Madison
LCA 522-307 & 308: 1st Year Hmong
2125 Humanities Building (Monday – Friday: 8:00 – 12:00 A.M.)

Instructor: Choua Lee

Office: **4271 Humanities Building**
Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. (or by appointment)
Phone: (608) 890 - 3306
Cell: (608) 609 -5930
Email: lee2@wisc.edu

Course Description

This course emphasizes listening and speaking skills in the context of basic conversation patterns and vocabulary. The course is also a basic introduction to the sound system of Hmong and the Hmong writing system used in this country, the Romanized Popular Alphabet (RPA). The main goals of this course are: 1) to introduce students to the sound system (consonants, vowels, and tones) of Hmong; 2) to develop basic Hmong language skills in the four learning components of listening, speaking, reading, and writing; 3) to learn simple words and phrases and a basic communicative ability based on simple questions, statements, and commands in culturally appropriate discourse contexts in Hmong; 4) to learn basic cultural norm (customs, ritual practices, etc.).

The target language will be used as means of communication and instruction in class. Students are expected to follow guidelines as required. **Note:** Based on the teacher's assessment, a student who has registered for elementary level instruction may be required to move to a more appropriate class, according to his/her language proficiency level.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:

1. Be able to identify simple and complex consonants, vowels and tones in speaking, reading and writing.
2. React appropriately in social situations in a predictable context.
3. Be able to produce the basic sounds of the language in representative vocabulary and sentences.
4. Be able to use and produce Hmong simple phrases such as greetings, basic family interaction discourse structures, simple conversational structures for daily life activities, and other survival skills.
5. Be able to produce simple phrases and sentences in Hmong to form familiar words and phrases from lessons studied in class.
6. Be familiar with Hmong customary practices and social activities.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

You will need the following books for the course.

1. Hmong Supplemental Language and Cultures of Asia 407
2. Phau Ntawv Kawm (Hmong Alphabet Book)
3. Phau Qhia Nyeem Ntawv Hmoob Dawb by Tsawb Vwj, Pov Vaj, & etl.
4. English-Hmong Glossary by Elizabeth Riddle
5. Languages & Cultures of Asia 307
6. Supplemental handouts ((supplied by the instructor; not on reserve)

RECOMMENDED BOOK:

1. Yuepheng Xiong, *English-Hmong/Hmong-English Dictionary* [Order from Hmong ABC Store: www.hmongabc.com]
2. Hmong Research Project: <http://hmongrp.wisc.edu>
3. Hmong Online Dictionary: <http://www.hmongdictionary.com>

GRADING

Participation	20%
Daily Journal & Homework	15%
Quizzes	15%
Projects	20%
Mid-Term Exam (Oral & Written)	15%
Final Exam (Oral & Written)	15%

A	92-100%
A/B	89-91%
B	82-88%
B/C	79-81%
C	70-78%
D	60-69%
F	59 and below

PARTICIPATION:

Participation is weighted heavily in this course. Since you cannot participate without being present in the classroom, attendance is extremely crucial. **Four tardies and/or unexcused early departures from class constitute one day of absence. Four days of unexcused absences will bring your grade down one letter grade. Note:** You will not be allowed to make up quizzes or tests (including mid-term and final exams) given during the days or times when you are tardy, leaving early, or are absent from the classroom without prior permission.

DAILY JOURNAL & HOMEWORK:

JOURNAL: Each student is expected to write a daily journal entry as part of homework assignments. All weekly journals are due every **Monday** before class starts. The journal entries can be about anything from your daily activities to your learning experience in class. Please try to use the vocabulary you learned from class to produce your sentences, and be careful to use correct spelling. **Note:** Each student is encouraged to come up with his/her own topics.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments will include both written and oral work and will be given throughout the eight week session. Assignments should be shared in class and reports should be turned in for credit. Students may also be required to write short summaries of readings, or do small group projects (translation English materials to Hmong).

QUIZZES:

There will be a 20 – 30 minutes of quiz every Friday morning on topics covered in class. **Note:** Specific dates of quizzes will be given in class.

PROJECTS & ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

During the course of the eight weeks, each student is expected to do **three small projects** which you can practice and present orally in Hmong. Both projects will require the ability to interview heritage speakers of the Hmong language to collect the data to complete your project requirements.

First project is a personal biography project, which requires a timeline of your life including a Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation with family background, pictures of family members, and friends or places you been to. The theme of this project is for students to learn about their family kinship terms and heritage history. **Due Date:** Monday, July 9, 2012

Second project is a "Culture Recipe Book". Every student is required to collect a Hmong recipe from Hmong families or friends in the community, which required a personal interview. The focus of this project is for students to learn about the Hmong ethnic foods and to transform it in writing and into recipes. The final project will be a collaboration work of the class by putting all recipes together in a "Hmong Recipe Book" by 1st Semester Hmong with references and all gathered information from all students. This project will finalize with a presentation of each student's work and a class potluck with 2nd Year Hmong students. **Due Date:** Monday, July 23, 2012

Third project is a Hmong Folktales project where each student is expected to learn several oral traditions practiced and valued by the Hmong. This final oral presentation and report required each student to learn to read, to write and to tell one Hmong traditional folktale (*dab neeg Hmoob*) orally in class. **Due Date:** Monday, August 6, 2012

Note: All oral presentations will be a measurement of students' progress from the course. Students will be evaluated by their ability to execute and deliver their project orally to an audience consisting of their peers. It is important for students to know that such ability to memorize accurately and to perform a task orally is crucial to the Hmong language and culture. *Projects' specifications and details will be provided in class.*

MIDTERM EXAM:

The midterm exam will cover all the lessons learned in class up to date and to be held on **Friday, July 13, 2012 from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. **Note:** There will be no curve; the grade will be based on your progress and performance.

FINAL EXAM:

The final exam will cover everything in the semester including all components of language acquisition (listening, reading, speaking, and writing). **Final exam will be held on Friday, August 10, 2012 from 8:00 - 10:00 am**. **Note:** There will be no curve; the grade will be based on your performance.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Dates for topics and activities are **tentative and may change to accommodate guest presenters & student needs**).

Week 1: Introduction syllabus, survey, and assessment

- Introduction to the sound system and writing system
- Greetings & Pleasantries

Week 2: The Language of the Classroom

- Dates, Time, Numbers, and Colors

Week 3: Family Structure

- Basic Hmong Kinship System
- Cultural Greeting
- Respectful Vocabulary (Culturally Appropriate Contents)

Week 4: Food Unit

- Types of food
- Describing food
- Shopping for food
- Preparing food
- Eating food

Week 5: Direction and Transportation

- Asking for information
- Comparison
- Asking about time
- Transportation terms
- Giving and receiving directions
- Cardinal Points (North, South, East, West)
- Place names
- Provinces of Laos
- Talking about Location

Week 6: Health & Treatment Beliefs

- Body parts
- Types of illnesses
- Types of medications
- Name of facilities
- Treatments: Western Culture vs. Hmong culture (Spiritual Healing)

Week 7: Occupations, Work, and Getting Things Done

- Useful Work Sentences
- Work Verbs
- Official Terminologies

Week 8: Review Week & Final: Everyday Life Activities

- Clothing
- Life Style
- Survival Skills
- Common Questions and Responses