

SEASSI SUMMER 2012
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
University of Wisconsin - Madison
LCA 522-407 & 408: 2nd Year Hmong
2221 Humanities Building (Monday – Friday: 8:00 – 12:00 A.M.)

Instructor: Phoua Yang

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. (or by appointment)
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Course Description

This course will emphasize the four skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. It is designed for heritage students who have limited or no Hmong written language background but with some speaking skills and for non-heritage students who have had first year Hmong. The main goals of this course are: 1) to strengthen the students' ability to communicate and negotiate meanings in White Hmong at the inter-personal level in the classroom and/or school settings; 2) to increase students' vocabulary through mastery of selected topics; and, 3) to introduce and develop basic reading, writing, and speaking skills using the Hmong Romanized Phonetic Alphabets (RPA). The course will be taught utilizing lectures, practice pronunciations, Hmong dialogues, group discussions, and class exercises.

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 teacher's assessment; students may be asked to move to a more appropriate class according to his/her language proficiency level.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, it is expected that students will be able to:

- Recognize and be able to use all Hmong sounds and their corresponding alphabet symbols (consonants, vowels, and tones).
- Identify and produce the intermediate level of oral and written forms of the Hmong language in the White Hmong dialect.
- Communicate in intermediate level social settings with little difficulty.
- Comprehend, ask and answer questions relating to personal experiences.
- Give an oral description of the known and concrete environment, given a topic or visual aid.

- Be able to identify the differences between Green Hmong and White Hmong dialect and customs.
- Identify and discuss key elements of the Hmong language and culture (e.g. family structure, clans, religion, costumes, and folktales).
- Explain what the Hmong culture norm and social structure are in each clan or subgroup.
- Identify certain types of the Hmong traditional songs (from which region or subgroup of the Hmong).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

You will need the following books for the course.

1. Hmong Supplemental Language and Cultures of Asia 407
2. Phau Qhia Nyeem Ntawv Hmoob Dawb by Tsawb Vwj, Pov Vaj, thiab etl.
3. English-Hmong Glossary by Elizabeth Riddle
4. Languages & Cultures of Asia 307
5. Learn to Read Hmong by Judy Lewis and Lue Vang (Provided by Instructor)
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://hmonggrp.wisc.edu>
3. Hmong Online Dictionary: <http://www.hmongdictionary.com>

The required course packet is available at Humanities Copy Center: 1650 Humanities Building (1st Floor), 455 North Park Street, phone: (608) 263 – 1803 / (608) 263 – 3718. Students are advised to acquire the texts as soon as possible.

GRADING

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

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|-----|--------------|
| 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 weighed heavily in this course. Since you cannot participate without being present in the classroom, attendance is extremely crucial. **Four tardies and/or unexcused early leaves 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 absent unexcused from the classroom.

JOURNAL & HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student is expected to write two journal entries or one homework assignment per week.

JOURNAL entries must be computer-typed and be between 3 to 4 paragraphs or one page in length (double-spaced 12 point font). Weekly journals are due every **Monday** before class starts. Journal entries can be anything from your daily activities to your learning experience in class, or any current event you came across in the Hmong communities. All journals should be carefully proofread for content, spelling errors, and grammar. Students will be required to correct and re-submit papers with too many mistakes (**no more than 15 mistakes per page**) in order to get full credit (resubmissions are due as specify by instructor). **Note:** Each student is encouraged to come up with his/her own topics.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS include both written and oral work. During the course of the semester, students will occasionally be assigned small projects on certain topics assigned from instructor. Assignments findings 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 of English materials to Hmong, community activities...etc...).

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 eight-week session, each student is required to do three written projects consisting of a 5 - 7 pages typed. Topics of projects are listed below. These papers will require student to interview Hmong individuals about history, culture [daily life activities], or society. Students will also share their projects with the class. Oral interviews with the elders must be done in person. The completed projects will be turned in for grading and present in class orally. Oral presentation will be about 15 minutes in length.

Students will be evaluated by their ability to execute and deliver their oral project 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.

Project 1 (Family Kinship & History): Students will interview parents, grandparents and family relatives to document their families background (great grandparents, grandparents, parents, & siblings) on both mother and father sides. The aim of this project is for the students to learn about their families' history and identities (who they are, where they came from, etc.), extended from 1st and 2nd Semesters. **Due Date:** Monday, July 9, 2012

Project 2 (The Hmong Life/Hmoob Lub Neej): This is a group project. It is required that all students participate and collaborate in this project. Each person will have his or her own responsibility in the project which is to interview one Hmong family; a family who had lived in the farming life cycle in Laos. Learn about the type of chores/activities the family did in Laos and/or Thailand (in a monthly routine all year round; January - December). **Note:** *More details and project specification will be provided when the projects are assigned.* **Due Date:** Monday, July 23, 2012

Project 3: Each student is expected to learn several oral skills practiced and valued by the Hmong. This final oral presentation and report required each student to learn to write and to sing one Hmong traditional song (*kvv txhiaj*), [standard three rhyming couplets/verses]. **Note:** Project specification will be given in advanced. **Due Date:** Monday, August 6, 2012

MIDTERM EXAM:

The midterm exam will cover all the lessons learned in class to date. **Note:** Specific dates will be determined before the end of week 4. There will be no curve; the grade will be based on your performance.

FINAL EXAM:

The final exam will cover everything from the beginning of class to the end of class and will apply to all components of the language (listening, reading, speaking, and writing).

Note: There will be no curve; the grade will be based on your performance.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Date for topics and activities are **tentative** and *may change to accommodate guest presentations & students' needs.*

Week 1: Introduction—

- syllabus, survey, and assessment
- Introduction to the Hmong writing system

Week 2: Narrative styles and structures

- Grammar Usage (sentence structure, language rules, punctuation marks, etc..)
- Culture Expressions

Week 3: Hmong Life

- Daily life activities (agriculture)
- Hmong Foods (Recipes)
- Farmer Market Field Trip
- Kinship system

Week 4: Religion and Culture

- Courtship & Marriages
- Spiritual Calling
- Hmong New Year (the important of the new year in details)

Week 5: Family Values & Hmong folk tales (Dab Neeg)

- Textiles (Paj Ntaub)
- Story telling

Week 6: Media Information

- Movies
- Radio Programs/Stations
- Modern Culture & Worldview (Hmong Life in America)

Week 7: Hmong Tradition Values

- Traditional Songs (Kwv Txhiaj)
- Modern Songs (Nkauj)
- Poems (Paj Huam)

Week 8: Advanced grammar and discourse review

- Review week
- Final!