

SEASSI Vietnamese Program Module Descriptions

1. Listening and speaking:

To develop their listening and speaking skills, students will be listening to dialogues, short passages, and interviews, and then answering comprehension questions.

The dialogues and passages have been recorded on audio-tapes and could be made available as wav-files on a university web site. Interviews are taken from various sources, including television programs, the internet, etc.

2. Reading and writing:

The reading and writing module provides students with well-structured materials that cover a wide range of topics to help them build a firm grasp of sentence patterns and a solid base of vocabulary, and can also be used as models for their own essays.

Materials can be found in two readers that cover such topics as family, hobbies and interests, social issues, aspects of Vietnamese culture, and so forth.

3. Conversation:

Conversation is a module that helps students hone their speaking skill with in-depth discussions on topics of their own choosing.

Students may choose to talk about their academic or research interests, or discuss cultural, social, or historical issues, after having been provided with specific vocabulary for each topic.

4. Literature:

For those who are interested in Vietnamese literature, they will have a chance to enjoy a few short stories and poems by contemporary authors of Vietnam, analyzing and critiquing them and exchanging ideas with one another.

Authors that students may wish to explore include Duong Thu Huong, Le Minh Khue, Phan Thi Vang Anh, Lam Thi My Da, Nguyen Quang Thieu, etc. Students may also choose to read authors from the Self-Reliance Literary Group (founded in the 1930s by Nhat Linh and Khai Hung) and poets of old such as Nguyen Khuyen, Ba Huyen Thanh Quan, and Ho Xuan Huong.

5. Translation:

Translating a couple of short stories by Vietnamese American authors into Vietnamese will help students become aware of how Vietnamese is structured in terms of sentence patterns, style, genre, register, etc.

Authors that students may want to translate include Nguyen Qui Duc, Andrew Lam, and Thanh ha Lai.

6. Culture:

The culture module gives students insights into Vietnamese society through talks and videos on customs and traditions and other social practices.

Each week teachers and guest speakers may show videos and/or give a lecture on a couple of aspects of Vietnamese culture.

7. Newspaper reading:

Newspaper reading is for those who want to develop an understanding of newspaper language and to be able to skim the news.

There are many web sites that provide daily news in Vietnamese, including the *BBC Vietnamese*, that provide news in brief as well as news analyses/commentaries and full-length articles.

In one activity, students may form pairs or groups to skim the news first, then take turns explaining what they've read. In another activity, students look for Sino-Vietnamese expressions that feature some common roots, and try to determine the meaning(s) of these roots from the context of use.

8. Special individual or group project:

The project module allows students to work independently and creatively while exploring aspects of special interest that may encompass the Vietnamese American experience, identity, community, etc.

Students are encouraged to do a video project or to go out and interview community leaders or document community events such as a picnic or a festival, or a meeting, etc.