

SEASSI SUMMER 2017
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
University of Wisconsin - Madison
LCA 522-407 & 408: 2nd Year Hmong
(Monday – Friday: 8:00 – 12:00 A.M.)
Classroom: [REDACTED]

Instructor: Choua Lee

Office: [REDACTED]
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. (or by appointment)
Phone: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

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 pronunciation, 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 Ntawv Kawm Hmoob Xyoo 2
3. Hmoob Lub Neej Kev Ua Noj Ua Haus
4. 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 Online Dictionary: <http://www.hmongdictionary.com>
3. English – Hmong Glossary – *online texts folder*
4. Languages and Cultures of Asia 307 – Vocab Book; *online texts folder*

The required course packet is available at Social Science Copy Center, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Students are advised to acquire the texts as soon as possible.

GRADING

Participation	20%
Journal & Homework Assignments	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 weighed heavily in this course. Since you cannot participate without being present in the classroom, attendance is extremely crucial. Three 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 that may require them to interview someone in the Hmong community 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 25 – 30 minutes of quiz every Friday morning on topics covered in class.

PROJECTS & ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

During the eight week sessions, each student is required to do two projects, 7 - 10 pages typed and double-spaced, based on the assignments assign from the instructor. These papers will require interviewing Hmong individual(s) about some aspect of the Hmong history, culture [daily life activities], or society. Oral interviews can be done over the phone or in person. The completed projects will be turned in for grading and present in class orally.

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 & The Hmong Life (Hmoob Lub Neej): 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' histories and identities (who they are, where they came from, and what they do back in Laos), extended from 1st Year Hmong.

Project 2: During the course of the 8 weeks, 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 (*kwv txhiaj*), [standard three rhyming couplets/verses]. **Note:** Project specification will be given in advanced.

Note: *All projects' details and specifications will be provided when the projects are assigned.*

MIDTERM EXAM:

The midterm exam will cover all the lessons learned in class to date, on *Friday, July 14th, 2017*.

Note: 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 skills), on *Friday, August 11, 2017*. **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/Narrative styles and structures

- syllabus, survey, and assessment
- Introduction to the Hmong writing system
- Grammar Usage (sentence structure, language rules, punctuation marks, etc..)
- Culture Expressions

Week 2 & 3: Family Values & the Hmong Life

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

Week 4 & 5: Religion and Culture

- Hmong New Year (the important of the new year in details)
- Courtship & Marriages
- Spiritual Calling
- Story telling
- Pop Culture (Media & the Movies)
- Modern Culture & Worldview (Hmong Life in America)

Week 6 & 7: Hmong Tradition Values

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

Week 8: Advanced grammar and discourse review

- Review week
- Final!