

Beginning Burmese (LCA 303/304 001)
SEASSI 2018 (June 18th – August 10th)
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Course outline

Instructors: Daw San San Hnin Tun, Daw Chan Lwin, Daw Ei Thin Zar

Office: [REDACTED]

Office hours: [REDACTED]

- Daw San San Hnin Tun [REDACTED] : Monday (3:00 – 5:00 p.m) or by appointment
- Daw Chan Lwin [REDACTED] : Thursday (2:00 – 4:00 p.m) or by appointment
- Daw Ei Thin Zar [REDACTED] : Friday (2:00 – 4:00 p.m) or by appointment

Conversation hour:

When: Tuesday (Time: TBA) Where: TBA

This hour offers an opportunity to practice conversing in Burmese in an informal setting with some of our instructors on topics of interest of the participants.

Objectives

This course aims to help develop all four language skills, namely speaking, listening, reading and writing, for learners who have not had any or little exposure to Burmese before. The overall language pedagogy is based on a communicative and performance-based approach: learners are thus required to participate in various activities that are designed to help them master the linguistic skills at the basic level, which is defined as follows for this course:

- Ability to engage in a brief exchange about everyday topics in different social settings, using simple utterances and a limited set of vocabulary
- Ability to read and write in Burmese script: making an accurate association between the script (letters, symbols and various combinations of letters and symbols) and sounds they represent, including skills to recognize phonological aspect of tones
- Ability to communicate with sensitivity to various cultural aspects of Burmese societies, through awareness of socio-cultural aspects embedded in language use

Requirements

Given that language acquisition is a complex process that can be best achieved through a consistent and active participation in learning activities, learners are required to attend all classes and engage in all in-class activities everyday throughout the whole course period of SEASSI. Furthermore, all assignments to do outside must be submitted as specified by the instructors. Failure to fulfill these requirements will not only result in your personal failure to learn Burmese, but also in negatively affecting your grades (see grading criteria below for details).

Joint-sessions, organized 3 times a week, gathering all students in Burmese, are designed to create a forum for discussions on all matters related to learning Burmese, with a special emphasis on pragmatics of language use, that take into account a crucial role of socio-cultural aspects of Burmese. Active participation in the forum is required as a part of course work.

Final exam dates cannot be rescheduled, except for medical emergencies, for which an official medical certificate must be provided.

Be sure to follow all other specific instructions as they are given throughout the course period. Be sure to seek advice from the instructors if you have any doubts or concerns about your language learning process as soon as possible without waiting until the approaching exam periods.

Required textbook:

- Hnin Tun, San San (2014), *Colloquial Burmese: the complete course for beginners*, London, Routledge

Other Resources

- Saw Tun, *Burmese script* (available for purchase at Copy center ??)
- Okell, John (1994), *Burmese: An introduction to the script*, Northern Illinois University
- Okell, John (1994), *Burmese: An introduction to the spoken language, Book I*, Northern Illinois University
- NIU seasite (Myanmar): <http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Burmese/>
- Burmese script animation : <http://www.lrc.cornell.edu/asian/courses/bu/materials/scriptanime>

Assessment

Your work in the course will be assessed through a daily evaluation of your participation in class, assignments turned in as required, quizzes (dates TBA) and two final exams.

Grading criteria (for LCA 303 001 & LCA 304 001)

- Attendance and class participation: 30%
- Homework and assignments: 30%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Final: 30%

Time table: 18th June – 13th July (the second half: TBA)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:00 – 9 :00	Spoken Burmese (SSHT)
9:00 – 9:10	BREAK
9:10 – 10:10	Bse writing system (CL)
10:10 – 10:20	BREAK
10:20 – 11:20	Practical Burmese I (ETZ)
11:20 – 11:30	BREAK
11:30 – 12:00	Joint session

Tuesday, Thursday

8:00 – 9 :15	Spoken Burmese (SSHT)
9:15 – 9:25	BREAK
9:25 – 10:40	Bse writing system (CL)
10:40 – 10:50	BREAK
10:50 – 12:00	Practical Burmese I (ETZ)

Special Needs:

If you have special requests regarding access to the classroom or seating arrangements in class (e.g. you would like to sit close to any visual aids or would like to record sessions), please let us know. We will do our best to make sure that people with disabilities and/or special needs are well accommodated in the course, so that you can participate fully. If there is any information you would like to share with us, confidentiality of your personal information will be maintained.

We also recommend contacting the McBurney Resource Center for UW students with disabilities. The staff there will work with you to allow you to be successful in this and all of your courses.

Statement on Preferred Name and Gender Pronouns

Class rosters and University data systems are provided to the instructors with the student's legal name and gender identification. We will gladly honor your request to address you by a preferred name and gender pronoun. Please advise us of this reference early in the program.