SEASSI Khmer Beginning Syllabus

Languages and Cultures of Asia 307/008 is a year-long equivalent (two-semester) sequence designed to bring students up to “survival level” in standard spoken and written Khmer. Class will mostly consist of activities in which Khmer must be used to accomplish specific tasks relevant to the topical matter of the Unit, thus giving practical experience in using and hearing Khmer. There will also be lectures (in English) on various cultural and grammatical issues in Khmer, with a focus on how these issues relate to English and American culture. There will be lectures on the writing system and on common pronunciation problems as well. There will also be lots of “focused listening” practice, games, and songs. A playful and creative approach will be encouraged in the learning and practice of all four skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) in Khmer, as well as Khmer culture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Students will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
1. Overall Class Participation: 20%
2. Completion of homework/assignments: 30%
3. Quizzes: 20%
4. Mid-term exam (written and oral): 10%
5. Final exam (written and oral): 10%
6. Individual/group project: 10%

NOTE:
1. Participation: Participation will be graded based on the following criteria:
   a. 4-5 well-prepared; engage to and fully participate in the classroom activities
   b. 2-3 present, but relatively passive
   c. 1 significantly late (30 minutes after the class begins) or considerably disturb the class including using your phones. The use of phones, laptops and other gadgets in the classroom is limited to instruction or learning purposes. Please respect both your instructors and fellow students by coming to class on-time.
   d. 0 elective absence

Notes: In case of emergency situation or illness, student must notify the teacher or the coordinator. Otherwise, your absence will be considered an elective absence and affect your overall grade significantly. Except illness and emergency situation (e.g. accident, family emergency situation such as death or serious illness of the closest family member), all other absences are considered elective absence.

2. Daily Assignment/homework: Class assignments will be given on Canvas or on Box, located at [Canvas or Box Link]. Students are responsible for checking this blog at least once a day; twice is better. 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm (central time) are recommended times to check. Homework should be submitted on the next day to the teacher who assigns it. A three-day late submission will not be graded.

3. Quiz: There are four quizzes on Fridays to assess the learner’s progressing against what have been learned. Please refer to the schedule for Khmer language program for quiz date on Canvas or on Box, located at [Quiz Schedule Link].
6. **Individual/group project**: The topic of this project can be anything to do with Khmer culture, language, society, art, history, etc. that students choose, subject to the instructor’s approval. Students will present oral reports (props such as video, etc. optional but encouraged) on their projects. Each oral presentation can last up to 15 but no more than 20 minutes long. 10 minutes will be set aside for questions from the rest of the class following each presentation.

Grades are based on the total of the accumulated points according to the above evaluation criteria.

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<td>D</td>
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In general, students are expected to spend at least one hour per class hour preparing/studying outside of class. If you do not spend this minimum amount of time studying/practicing outside of class, you will not be able to reach the goals (described as “At the end of this Unit, students will be able to...”) listed in this syllabus.

Class Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 AM – 14:00 PM (Central time of North America)

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<tr>
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<td>1st Break</td>
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<td>2nd Period</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Break</td>
<td>12:20–12:40</td>
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<td>4th Period</td>
<td>12:40–14:00</td>
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**INSTRUCTOR** – Vathanak Sok  
**Instructional Mode** – Online instruction via BBC Ultra (Cisco Webex may also be used as an alternative videoconferencing platform).  
**Office hours**: 15:00-17:00 Monday through Thursday or by appointment

**Main textbook:**

**Recommended Textbooks:**
- Sothea, Samreth. 2012. *Khmer Language for Foreigners*. Royal University of Phnom Penh, Linguistic Department, Volume 1  
- Frank Smith.2006. Muk Khmer. It includes DVD-ROM with videos, audio tracks of vocabulary and structures and clickable alphabet chart. To order the book, please click on the following link [https://studykhmer.com/textbooks/](https://studykhmer.com/textbooks/).

No physical dictionary is required for the course, but students may wish to purchase the Hippocrene Books (Firm). 2013. *Khmer (Cambodian) dictionary & phrasebook*. It is usually available on amazon.com. Students are encouraged to use the free online dictionary at [http://www.sealang.net/khmer](http://www.sealang.net/khmer) or [www.kheng.info](www.kheng.info). Note that this dictionary requires that Khmer Unicode fonts are installed on one’s computer. See the instructor for more info on this.
Other dictionaries

COURSE CONTENTS

Week One:
Topics covered in this unit include polite and colloquial greetings and farewells, introducing themselves, addressing people properly, seeking confirmation with the question word “មនុស្ស”。 Students will also learn to count to 10 in Khmer. Students will begin to learn the basics of the Khmer writing system from day one in class. At the end of the week, students will be familiar with 14 individual consonant and its meaning and the combination of the consonants.

At the end of Week One, students will be able to:
- greet social peers and elders/teachers appropriately in Khmer
- address people properly
- use verb “to be” in Khmer
- say farewell appropriately in a variety of social contexts
- learn to write and count to 10 in Khmer
- learning some common verbs (go, meet, come, learn, etc…) in combination with pronouns.
- ask and respond to very basic questions regarding your name, country and nationality using question word “what and where”.
- Express politeness and respect with អាចើញ and សូម “please”
- Generate simple sentences with consonants, and combination of CC and CC with “’” in combination with pronouns
- be able to use appropriately the most common kinship terms (as pronouns) in Khmer

Week Two:
In this unit students will learn to tell and ask about their families using Khmer classifiers and question word “how many” and the verb “to have/has” in Khmer, talking about their ages. Student will be familiar with possessive adjectives. Students will also learn to count to 100 in Khmer. Students will begin to learn vowels, the position of vowels (group 1 and 2) in combination with consonants (CV and CVC). The irregular consonants will also be learned in this unit. At the end of the lesson, students will also learn additional common verbs and be able to write more simple sentences.

At the end of Week Two, students will be able to:
- begin to use Khmer classifiers appropriately
- count to 1,000 in Khmer
- be able to ask and tell about their families and ages.
- learn the first and second group of the vowels and the position of the vowels.
- use the possessive adjective appropriately.
- make simple sentences using common verbs in the combination of CV and CVC.
Week Three:
Topics in this Unit include the occupations and professions in Khmer, talking about their dream jobs with the expressions “to want to be” including some Khmer modifier (not very much/not so and adverbs (too/as well). Additional Khmer kinship terms used as pronouns and colours will be learned. Students will also learn to talk about time with the Khmer preposition “េស្លឹះ”. Students will learn the rest of the Khmer consonants, and all “first and second series” vowel sounds as well as the use of diacritics “ំ” and “ះ” with certain consonants. The sub-consonants and consonant clusters will be also learned. Students will also learn other three common rules of pronunciations.

At the end of this Week, students will be able to:
- talk about certain occupations and professions
- using expressions related to occupations and professions
- use some Khmer adverbs and modifiers properly
- tell and ask about time with Khmer preposition “េស្លឹះ”
- talk about colors in Khmer
- learn sub-consonant and consonant clusters
- learn the first and second series of the vowels sounds
- use diacritics “ំ” and “ះ” with certain consonants
- use additional kinship terms and other pronouns appropriately in conversation

Week Four:
In this unit students will learn the present continue and the past in Khmer, making request with the some patterns, making appointment with ordinary people and government officials, learning the expressions related to making appointment via telephones. Students will also learn some of the adverb of time (today, yesterday, tomorrow, this morning, before, after, etc…) and use them correctly in the sentences. More ways to expression politeness and respect will be also learned. Students will also learn the simple prepositions in Khmer to talk about location of things in the combination with the word “េស្លឹះ “to be situated at” and with “There is/are” correctly. In their study of pronunciation, students will learn Khmer diacritic “ំ” and how they affect vowel sounds. Students will learn the several conjunctions in Khmer and should be able to write longer sentences.

At the end of this Week, students will be able to:
- learn some adverb of time and use them in the sentences correctly.
- make appointments in person or via telephones
- learn simple prepositions in Khmer
- tell the location of things in the combination with “េស្លឹះ “to be situated at and “There is/are”.
- learn the diacritic “ំ” that affect vowel sounds
- learn and use the conjunction “but and when” in the sentences.
- talk about action that is happening in the combination with the particle “កំពុង”

Midterm Exam: July 10
The final exam will consist of an oral and a written section. In the oral section, students will act out assigned scenarios in front of the rest of the class in pairs or groups of three. These scenarios will require the appropriate use of grammatical structures and vocabulary learned throughout the course. Students will be given three days to prepare these skits. The written
section of the exam will consist of fill-in questions designed to measure comprehension of a short reading passage similar to material previously covered in class.

**Week Five:**
In this unit students will learn how to give and receive directions, using expressions related to distances. Student will also learn and use some Khmer adjectives and modifiers correctly, describing parts of body, talking about animal and popular proverbs and idioms in Khmer. Student will learn comparison in Khmer and use their judgment (I think, I am sure, I believe, etc…) for making comparison. Student will learn Khmer tradition related to clothing, how Cambodia dress up according to the days of the week, buying clothing, expressing their preference, using this/that/these and those to specify what they want. More colors will be also learned in this unit. Another particle “ឲž” meaning “for” will be learned.

**At the end of Week Five, students will be able to:**
- give and receive directions appropriately in Khmer
- learn some Khmer adjectives
- describe parts of body
- talk about animals and animals in Khmer proverbs and idioms
- make simple comparison in Khmer
- learn more colors in Khmer
- buy clothing and express their preferences
- learn another important particle “ឲž” in Khmer
- learn Khmer modifiers

**Week Six:**
Topics covered in this unit include foods and meal time in Cambodia, ordering food and drinks at a restaurant, talking about what they want in Khmer in polite way, expressing like and dislike, using the word “វǰញ” to express preference, inviting someone to eat out and using the particle “ឲž” meaning “for” in Khmer appropriately. Student will learn preposition “for” and “with” in appropriate contexts. Additional modifiers will be also learned. Student will also learn to generate questions with “how” and “why”. In this unit student will learn about some various sites to visit in Phnom Penh, how to go around the city and to ask and tell and bargain for price with the question word “how much”. Student will also learn about some common illness in Khmer, giving advice and suggestion with some model verbs. Another two conjunctions in Khmer will also be learned.

**At the end of Week Six, students will be able to:**
- talk about food and meal time in Khmer
- order food and drinks in a restaurant
- talk about what they want politely and appropriately.
- express like and dislike and their preference with the word “វǰញ”
- invite someone to eat out
- use the particle “ឲž” and preposition “with” and “for” appropriately
- learn more Khmer modifiers
- make questions with “how and why”
- bargain for price with the question word “how much”
- learn some locations in Phnom Penh
• bargain for price with question word “how much”
• talk about common illnesses
• give advice and suggestion
• learn some model verbs in Khmer appropriately
• learn conjunction “so” and “because”

Week Seven:
In this unit student will learn the expression of important emotions, talking about weather and seasons in Cambodia, telling and asking when and where to visit during certain seasons in Cambodia and other expressions related to weather. The student will learn adverb of frequency in Khmer, talking about their habit and what they do during their free time and how often they do certain activities. Student will learn and use future tense in Khmer to talk about their future plan and arrangement. Student will also learn to invite and refuse the invitation (the formal and informal invitation). In this unit students will also learn present perfect in Khmer including the expression with “already and yet”. Student will learn means of transport in Khmer, talking about varies sites to visit in Cambodia and their travelling experiences and cities they have visited. Additional conjunction “however and though” will be learned.

At the end of Week Seven, students will be able to:
• talk about emotions
• talk about weather and seasons in Cambodia
• use the adverb of frequency
• use the adverb of sequence
• talk about their habit and what they do during their free time
• talk about future plan and arrangement
• invite and refuse the invitation appropriately
• use the present perfect in combination with “already and yet”
• learn means of transport in Khmer and how to get somewhere by certain means of transport
• talk about their trip experiences and cities they have visited
• use the conjunction “however and though” in Khmer appropriately.

Week Eight:
This unit will cover a wide range of topics: buying tickets, talking about trip itinerary to Cambodia, booking and checking a hotel room and renting an apartment. Student will also learn the model verb “can” to talk about ability as well as expressions with “to know how”. Student will also learn the most common punctuation and use the plural words in Khmer appropriately. Another important pattern សិន...សឹង “first...then” and several adverbial constructions in Khmer will be also learned.

At the end of this Week, students will be able to:
• buy tickets using appropriate Khmer vocabulary and grammar
• properly use several adverbial constructions in Khmer
• talk about trip itinerary to Cambodia
• book and check in a hotel
• renting an apartment in Cambodia
• use model verb “can” to talk about ability
• learn and use the most common punctuations and in the plural words in Khmer appropriately.

**Final Exam: August 7**
The final exam will consist of an oral and a written section. In the oral section, students will act out scenarios in front of the rest of the class in pairs or groups of three. The topic of these scenarios is open (as is the composition of each group) but should demonstrate the appropriate use of grammatical structures and vocabulary learned throughout the course. The written section of the exam will consist of fill-in questions designed to measure comprehension of a short reading passage similar to material previously covered in class.
OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

RULES, RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES (See the Guide’s Rules, Rights and Responsibilities)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UW-Madison’s community of scholars in which everyone’s academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct compromises the integrity of the University. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment/course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. Substantial or repeated cases of misconduct will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards for additional review. For more information, refer to http://studentconduct.wiscweb.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/.

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
McBurry Disability Resource Center syllabus statement: “The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of their week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurry Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student’s educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.”
http://mcburney.wisc.edu./facstaffother/faculty/syllabus.php

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
Institutional statement on diversity: “Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals. The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.” https://diversity.wisc.edu/