

Beginning Burmese (ASIALANG 307 003 DDD/308 003 HDD)
SEASSI 2021 (June 14th – August 6th)
University of Wisconsin, Madison (on-line on Zoom)

Course outline

Instructors: Daw San San Hnin Tun, Daw Chan Lwin, Daw Maw Maw Tun

Telephone: upon request

Office hours:

- Daw San San Hnin Tun [REDACTED]: by appointment
- Daw Chan Lwin [REDACTED]: by appointment
- Daw Maw Maw Tun [REDACTED] by appointment

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, that incorporate developing all 4 skills with a wholistic 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

All language activities in the course are designed to make the learners work **in three different modes, namely “personal”, “interpretive”, and “interpersonal”**.

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/>

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 ASIALANG 307 003 DDD/308 003 HDD)

- Attendance and class participation: 30%
 - Preparatory work: 10%
 - In-class participation: 20%
- Homework and assignments: 30%
 - Submitted work: 20%
 - Correction: 10%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Final: 30%

Time table: June 14th – 9th 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 Bse (MMT)
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 Bse (MMT)

Special Needs:

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.