

**Intermediate Burmese (ASIALANG 407 003 DDD/304 003 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 Intermediate Burmese course is intended for those who have studied Burmese at the basic level, and/or familiar with basic notions of Burmese linguistic structures, including Burmese script. Our goal is to help develop proficiencies further in **all four language skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing** – which should allow the learner to communicate in Burmese with an increased control and confidence. Learners will also be exposed further to written contemporary Burmese, which makes use of a greater amount of “literary Burmese”.

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 intermediate level, which is defined as follows for this course:

- Ability to engage in conversation about selected topics and social settings, using more complex utterances about a wider range of topics, including a better knowledge of lexical items that cannot only be explained in terms of their grammatical functions
- Abilities to read and understand texts in contemporary Burmese, including those written in literary style Burmese.
- Ability to communicate with increased sensitivity about various cultural aspects of Burmese societies, using socially appropriate behavior in interpersonal relations with Burmese speaker

All language activities in the course are designed to make the learners work in **three different modes, namely “presentational”, “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 done outside of class 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). Daily joint-sessions, gathering all students in Burmese, are designed to create a forum for discussion on all matters related to learning Burmese, with a special emphasis on pragmatics of language use, that take into account the 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.

Resources:

There is no set textbook for this level, but a selection of miscellaneous reading and listening materials will be drawn from various resources including the following:

- Okell, John (1994), *Burmese: An introduction to literary Burmese*, NIU
- 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 will be specified later) and two final exams.

Grading criteria (for ASIALANG 407 003 DDD/304 003 HDD)

- Attendance and class participation: 30%
 - Preparatory work: 10%
 - In-class participation: 20%
- Homework and assignments: 20%
- Journal writing 20%
 - Submitted work: 10%
 - Response to comments: 10%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Final exam : 20%

Time table: June 14th – 9th July (the second half: TBA)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:00 – 9:00	Media in Myanmar (CL)
9:00 – 9:10	BREAK
9:10 – 10:10	Thematic conversation in Bse (MMT)
10:10 – 10:20	BREAK
10:20 – 11:20	Developing reading skills in Bse (SSHT)
11:20 – 11:30	BREAK
11:30 – 12:00	Joint session

Tuesday, Thursday

8:00 – 9:15	Media in Myanmar (CL)
9:15 – 9:25	BREAK
9:25 – 10:40	Thematic conversation in Bse (MMT)
10:40 – 10:50	BREAK
10:50 – 12:00	Developing reading skills in Bse (SSHT)

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.