

SEASS 2023 - ASIALANG 307 - 009 (4 credits):

First Semester Thai

(June 19 – July 14, 2023)

Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM -12:00 PM CST

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Van Hise 487

Zoom Link:

Instructors: Janpanit Surasin
Aimkamon Bunmee

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM, or by appointment

Office Location:

I. COURSE OVERVIEW

This class is designed for students who have no practical oral communicative ability in Thai, i.e. those who have never studied nor been exposed to the Thai language before and those who, although might know a few isolated words or expressions in Thai, cannot use the language to communicate extensively.

At the beginning level, students have to familiarize themselves to the AUA transcription symbols. Thus, earlier in the semester, attention is given to sound production and representation. Students are expected to listen to online audio materials to improve the listening skills and pronunciation. As for the content coverage, approximately one or two weeks will be spent per unit depending on the complexity of each unit along with the reading and writing Thai.

In the second half of the semester, students will be introduced to the Thai writing and reading system. We will be using the AUA textbook for reading and writing.

At the end of the semester, it is expected that students will be able to handle some survival situations using Thai such as talking about self, family and daily activities, asking for and giving directions, describing places and locations, expressing preferences, making comparisons, making requests, and telling time. The students will also begin to have basic knowledge of the Thai writing system.

We will be using the texts in the Speaking Thai 1 Packet as a guide to stimulate students to use Thai in a given situation. We will be using communicative approach in the class with the audio and visual aids and student-centered activities.

Thai will be the main language of instruction: questions or concerns that require the use of English are addressed outside of class time during the teacher's office hours.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to do the following in all three modes of communication:

Interpersonal Communication

- Communicating and exchanging basic personal and family information
- Asking for and telling time
- Talking about daily activities

Presentational Communication

- Presenting information about themselves
- Describing places and people
- Expressing preferences and making comparison
- Writing simple dictation of words, phrases, and sentences using the AUA transcription symbols

Interpretive Communication

- Recognizing and understanding of words, simple sentences, and information on familiar topics, including self, family, places, location, and daily activities
- Identifying Thai consonants, vowels and basic reading rules
- Reading simple Thai passages written in AUA transcription symbols with a fairly correct pronunciation

III. TEXTBOOKS

Required: 1) **Speaking Thai 1** Textbook and **Writing Thai Workbook**

can be downloaded from Canvas under the course name for on-line students, and purchased at Social Science Copy Center at Sewell Hall 6120, for in-person students.

2) **AUA Language Center, Reading and Writing: Text (mostly reading)**

must be ordered either from Amazon or Cornell University Press.

3) Additional materials will be provided and uploaded on Canvas.

IV. COURSE POLICIES

- Students are expected to come to class on time. Repeated tardiness will result in a lowered grade.
- Students must come to class prepared for every session. This requires students to study the relevant vocabulary and patterns in the Textbook, and complete pre-task

activities as homework and assignments given before the class. The point of the synchronous session is to practice, perform and discuss what you have worked on/ learned from the assigned tasks.

- Homework and assignments should be submitted on time. There will be a 10% penalty for late homework.
- Students who will be absent must contact the instructor via email **before the class starts**. Students who are absent are still responsible for turning in assignments on time.
- There will be a dictation exercise/ quiz on various aspects of pronunciation daily at the beginning of class for 5-10 minutes.
- Smartphones must be turned off or silenced and kept out of sight during class time.
- Take pair work or small group work seriously. Remember that your peer's learning is partly dependent upon your engagement.
- Respect others' right to hold opinions and beliefs that differ from your own. Be open to hearing their perspectives. Be open to changing your perspectives based on what you learn from others. Be okay with disagreement.
- Students must contact the instructors if they have any questions regarding the class, grades, homework and assignments, etc. Questions, concerns or other questions that require the use of English are addressed outside of class time during the teacher's office hours.

VI. GRADING

Grading Scale

A	93 - 100
AB	88 – 92
B	80 – 87
BC	75 – 79
C	61 – 74
D	55 – 60
F	≤ 54

Evaluation is based on:

a. Participation	20 %
b. Homework	25 %
c. Quizzes	30 %
d. Project	10 %
e. Final exam	15 %

V. COURSE EVALUATION

- a. Participation (20%) Active classroom participation will be assessed based on daily participation and full attendance in class using the following rubric:

Score	Criteria
3	Well-prepared; responsible and fully engaged in tasks, participate in all class activities
2	Some evident of preparation; somewhat responsible and partially engaged/ participate in all tasks and activities

1	Present but not completed preparation work; relatively passive or not volunteering to participate
0	Late (5-15 minutes) to class; not adding to the learning dynamic of the class or elective absence (without informing the instructor)

- b. Homework (25%) will be evaluated equally based on on-time submission of both preparatory work (before-class assignments) and reinforcement activity (after-class assignments).
- c. Quizzed (30%) will be accounted for three quizzes over the course: Quiz 1 (Unit 1-2), Quiz 2 (Unit 3), and Quiz 3 (Unit 4-5).
- d. Project (10%) will be assessed by the presentation of one project at the end of the semester (before the final exam.) The presentation will be scaffolded throughout the course.
- e. Final Exam (15%) will contain both oral and written exams. The final will be on Friday, July 14, 2023.

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

The courses will begin with the focus on verbal communication. (The reading-writing skills in Thai will gradually be introduced and by the end of the summer, students should know the whole reading-writing system and able to go on practicing on their own.)

Week 1. -- Phonetic transcription, sounds of consonants and vowels, classroom language; greetings and small talk (greetings and leave taking, self-introduction)

Week 2. – Talking about places and describing their locations; numbers; basic comparison of people and places; introducing reading and writing system.

Week 3. -- Describing things around classroom and university; learning languages; describing places, basic characteristics of people and expressing preferences of people and places

Week 4. – Family and kinship terms; occupations; telling time and daily activities

Project presentation and Final exam