



Beginning Thai I

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: THAI 1001

Number of Credits: 4 credits

Language of Instruction: Thai & English

Contact Hours: 60 hours

Course Description

This course uses a competency-based approach and is designed for beginners for whom Thai is a foreign language. The course emphasizes speaking and listening skills. Reading and writing are integrated in the lesson in order to enhance speaking and listening. Thai is a tonal language in which a word's meaning varies depending on the pattern of rising and falling pitch used. Students will learn to use tone analysis to determine a word's meaning.

Language and culture are integrated in the course. Students will learn language and gain cultural insights from daily living with a host family in addition to the classroom experience. They will be stimulated to practice Thai language through discussion about cultural differences they experience during the program. For the most effective learning, instructors will speak Thai rather than English during the class.

The Beginning Thai I course provides fundamental skills for students to practice and build vocabulary, focusing on everyday phrases as well as vocabulary that may be useful at their internship sites. The topics and skills of each week can be flexible depending on student's progress. As speaking and listening skills are emphasized, assessment will include comprehensive oral examinations at the end of classroom phase and of semester.

Course Objectives

- Provide fundamental skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) for students to practice in everyday living and at their internship/research site.

- Develop tone analysis skills to differentiate words' meanings and be able to correctly pronounce them.
- Single word and sentence formation.
- Stimulate students to express Thai language skills in various situations as much as possible.
- Integrate culture into language for practical learning.

Methodology

The course methodology is eclectic, including natural and task-base approaches. This will be conducted using competency-based learning. The classroom activities include general conversation, describing daily activities, survival language, describing family and kinship, tone analysis and meaning, as well as identification and recognition of Thai scripts and sounds. The homework will be assigned for students to focus on topics that relate to their daily living. The students will have regular tests during the course and an oral examination at the end of the semester/session. The tests and oral examination will be the major evaluation tool for teachers and will assess 2 grammar, pronunciation, comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. The students will be divided into small groups of 4-6 per group.

Course Prerequisites

None

Required Reading / Materials

There is no required reading but for self-preparation, students can practice Thai language by themselves by watching Thai movies, listening to Thai songs, and online language tools to become more familiar with Thai language and learn about Thai culture. THAI READING EXERCISE and THAI WORK BOOK FOR BEGINNERS are provided by ISDSI for students' learning out of classroom. The speaking and listening exercises during the class are delivered.

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Participation in class	10%
Homework	20%
Regular Testing	10%
Midterm oral exam	20%
Final oral exam	40%
Overall grade	100%

Assessment Details

- Class participation: Practicing is the major method of language learning, so students must actively engage in classroom activities (in Thai), including speaking and asking questions, communicating with classmates, and participating in class discussions. This also helps the instructor to evaluate their learning progress.
- Homework: This includes short written assignments and speaking in class about daily living, especially interactions with their host family and cross-cultural experiences.
- Regular testing: The test includes tonal analysis, reading, and writing skills. These skills are tested separately and periodically.
- Oral examinations: The midterm oral examination will be conducted at the end of the classroom phase before students leave to begin their internships. The final oral examination will be conducted during the final week of the program.

Course Content

Note- For the pre-semester, this course will be taught over three weeks (5 hours/day).

Week 1

- Course orientation
- Retreat
- Introduction/greeting
- Money and numbers
- Food

Week 2

- Food (continue)
- Drink
- Fruit
- Taste

Week 3

- Literacy: introduction to Thai numbers, Thai vowels, Thai consonants, Thai endings and tone markers
- Food (continue)
- Drink
- Fruit
- Taste

Week 4

- Literacy: Thai consonant cluster (real cluster), leading consonants, and oral reading of short passages
- Comparison
- Direction
- Family

Week 5

- Literacy: Thai consonant cluster (real cluster), leading consonants, and oral reading of short passages (continue)
- Family (continue)
- Daily activities
- Feeling and expression
- Development study keywords

Week 6

- Literacy: special rules for vowels and oral reading of short passages
- Family (relatives)
- Social relationship (occupation)
- Time and daily activities
- Development study keywords

Week 7

- Literacy: special rules for vowels and oral reading of short passages (continue)
- Time (unit of time)
- Health
- Shopping (clothes and color)
- Development study keywords

Week 8

- Literacy: word and sentence formation and oral reading of short passages
- Direction (place and preposition)
- Time (how to tell time)
- Transportation
- Review the lessons
- Mid-term examination

Week 9

- Spring Break

Week 10-15

- Internship/research phase

Week 16

- Wrap up
- Final oral examination

Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).