



CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course title:	Advanced Topics in Thai Language
Course code:	THAI 3001 TKKU
Programs offering course:	Khon Kaen DG
Language of instruction:	Thai
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	65
Term:	Spring 2020

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Master enough of the target language to be able to understand and make basic requests, to describe, in basic terms, places, people, events, and their needs and feelings, and to meet their daily needs and interact with locals on a daily basis.
- Learn culturally important expressions and use them in them appropriate contexts.
- Demonstrate their willingness, confidence, and skill in engaging actively and independently in the host culture by initiating conversations in the target language with staff, fellow students and locals on a regular basis.
- Be able to demonstrate via pre- and post-testing based on ACTFL guidelines that they have improved at least two ACTFL sublevels in their ability to describe, narrate, evaluate, and persuade on familiar topics (i.e. demonstrate increased fluency, accuracy, and appropriate use of language).

In order to determine how well students demonstrate competency in learning Thai on this program, students will have an oral proficiency test based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) guidelines twice during the semester. The aim of this assessment is to help students reflect on their progress in Thai and know their language proficiency level in the event of further Thai study.

Students will take a pre- and post-program test. The format of testing will be a 20-30 minute response to visual prompts and simulated situations. The test will allow the



students enough time to complete the task without intervention. The student's performance will be compared to the criteria outlined in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012 – Speaking as well as the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) scale. The comparison of ACTFL and ILR proficiency scales are:

ILR Scale	ACTFL Scale	Definition
5	Distinguished	Able to use language skillfully, and with accuracy, efficiency, and effectiveness
4	Superior	Able to communicate with accuracy and fluency in order to participate fully and effectively in conversations on a variety of topics in formal and informal settings from both concrete and abstract perspectives
3	Advanced - High	Able to discuss some topics abstractly, especially those relating to their particular interests and special fields of expertise, but in general, they are more comfortable discussing a variety of topics concretely
	Advanced - Mid	Able to contribute to conversations on a variety of familiar topics, dealt with concretely, with much accuracy, clarity and precision, and they convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion
	Advanced - Low	Able to contribute to the conversation with sufficient accuracy, clarity, and precision to convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion
2	Intermediate - High	Able to handle successfully uncomplicated tasks and social situations requiring an exchange of basic information related to their work, school, recreation, particular interests, and areas of competence
	Intermediate - Mid	Able to handle successfully a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. But conversation is generally limited to those predictable and concrete exchanges necessary for survival in the target culture
	Intermediate - Low	Able to handle successfully a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks by communicating with the language in straightforward social situations
1	Novice - High	Able to respond to simple, direct questions or requests for information. They are also able to ask a few formulaic questions
	Novice - Mid	Able to communicate minimally by using a number of isolated words and memorized phrases limited by the particular context in which the language has been learned
	Novice - Low	Have no real functional ability and, because of their pronunciation, may be unintelligible

Course Prerequisites

Intermediate Thai I & II

Methods of Instruction



- Regular classroom instruction involving structured practice with CIEE language instructors.
- Extra classroom instruction involving structured practice with assigned peer tutors.
- Assignments connected to community stays and interactive activities outside the classroom.

Assessment and Final Grade

1.	Assignments & Quizzes	25%
2.	Midterm Exam	25%
3.	Final Exam	20%
4.	Term Paper	10%
5.	Thai Oral Presentation	10%
6.	Participation	10%
	TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Assignments & Quizzes

Oral Presentation Assignment

Oral Presentation Assignment – In order to promote students’ speaking fluency, students are assigned 3 oral assignments connected to their homestay unit by talking under the given topics for example “My Thai host family from Agriculture Unit” or “My Favourite Day in Laos”. The objective is to increase self-confidence, relaxation, enjoyment, and improvement in speaking Thai.

Quiz I

Quiz I is a one-on-one oral quiz between the teacher and the student responding to series of questions. The questions include different syntactical/grammatical structures of Thai language learned in class. The teacher reads each sentence aloud for the students to respond which will be recorded for scoring.

Assessment

Speaking

- Able to give responses - 10%
- Sentence structure - 10%
- Pronunciation – tones - 5%
- Sound Quality – initial and ending sound, vowels - 5%
- Vocabulary – wide variety and accuracy - 5%

Listening

- Listening comprehension - 15%

Quiz II (Pair Oral Presentation)

Quiz II requires students work in pairs to come up with an oral presentation under the topic “My Favorite people in Khon Kaen”. Students are assigned 2-3 weeks before the presentation day. Students decide within their own pair whom their presentation will be on. Students will apply the vocabulary from the previous lesson to describe their favourite people. In the pair oral presentation, students not only learn how to construct sentences and practicing teamwork, but they also have the opportunities to practice Thai by interviewing their favourite people to collect the information for the presentation.

Assessment

- Sentence structure - 5%
- Pronunciation: comprehensible, intonation -5%
- Vocabulary: accuracy and variety - 5%
- Content: coherent, interesting, adequate - 5%
- Fluency: speech, voice, clarity, pace - 5%
- Visual aids: creative, relevant to the content -5% Interactive communication: eye contact, lively, well-prepared - 5%
- Able to give responses to follow up questio - 5%

Midterm Exam

Thai midterm is a similar form of Thai quiz which students respond to series of questions with a teacher. However, the questions of midterm are structures with more

complex form of questions than the quiz. Also, after the student respond to questions, they ask their prepared 3 questions to teachers without note.

Assessment

Speaking

- Able to give responses - 20%
- Sentence structure - 15%
- Pronunciation – tone - 10%
- Sound Quality – initials and ending sound, vowels - 5%
- Vocabulary use – wide variety - 10%

Listening

- Listening comprehension - 20%

Asking questions

- Questions - 5%
- Comprehensibility - 5%
- Sentence structure - 5%
- Creativity - 5%

Final Exam

In the final week of the program, students must prepare a Thai oral presentation reflecting about their study abroad experience in Thailand in front of their classmates, Thai teachers and peer tutors. This oral presentation is an effective communicative activity to promote students' oral proficiency and increase their confidence in speaking Thai language. Students will be evaluated from Thai language teachers and response to questions regarding their own story.

Assessment

- Sentence structure - 5%
- Pronunciation: comprehensible, intonation -5%
- Vocabulary: accuracy and variety - 5%



- Content: organization, interesting and creative - 5%
- Fluency: speech, voice, clarity, pace - 5%
- Visual aids: Adequate, creative and related to the topic - 5%
- Able to give respond (3 questions) - 5%

Term Paper

After all the topical learning sessions, students must choose one topic they are interested in for further study in order to write a 1,000-word term paper as their final project, with appropriate use of words and grammatical patterns.

Thai Oral Presentation

In the final week of the program, students must prepare a Thai oral presentation. This is an effective communicative activity to promote their oral proficiency and increase their confidence in speaking Thai. Students will be evaluated by teachers and other students. The objectives of the activity are:

- To provide a stimulating experience for students in training themselves to have confidence while speaking in public
- To help bridge the gap between language study and language use
- To be able to collect, inquire, organize and construct information
- To provide opportunity to enhance team work
- To help students become active and autonomous learners

Participation

Active participation is required for all classes, peer tutor sessions, and Thai Fun Activities. Arriving later than 15 minutes will be considered as absent. One unexcused absence is allowed. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a 20% reduction of your class participation grade.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class 1.1 Lesson 1

Thai competency test

Class 1.2 Lesson 1

Article “Bear Raiser”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Synonyms in Thai
- Reviewing sentence structure

Assignment:

- Write a 250 words letter to your friend about “My Favorite Pet”

Reading

- Ministry of Education (1993, 1-8)

Class 1.3 Thai Fun Activity 1

Participating in “Bingo” to review numbers.

Week 2

Class 2.1 Lesson 2

Article “Mom’s Secret”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Words with silent letters
- Borrowed words from other languages
- Types of sentences

Assignment:

- Read “Grandpa’s Story” and answer the questions.

Reading:

- Ministry of Education (1993, 29-37; 48-49)

Class 2.2 Lesson 3

Article “Good People in Rattanakosin”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Words with difficult pronunciation
- Consonants clusters
- Initials

Assignment:

- Prepare a 5 minutes talk on “Your Favorite Books”

Reading

- Ministry of Education (1993, 50-58)

Class 2.3 Lesson 4

Article “New Home for the Hermit Crab”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Words with “วิ”
- Adjectives

Assignment:

- Main idea from the story “New Home for the Hermit Crab”
- Write 250 words describing “My Family Home”

Reading

- Ministry of Education (1993, 78-90)



Class 3.1 Quiz 1

Class 3.2 Lesson 5

Article “Friendship”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Arranging paragraph
- Note Taking

Assignment:

- Write 250 words describing “My Best Friend”

Reading

- Ministry of Education (1993, 120-128)

Week 4

Class 4.1 Lesson 6

Article “Local Leisure Activities”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Simple Poem
- Words with “silent h”
- Punctuation marks

Assignment:

- Write 2 stanzas poem on any topic

Reading

- Ministry of Education (1993, 138-148)

Class 4.2 Lesson 7

Article “My Computer”

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Sentence connectors
- Writing chronology

Assignment:

- Write a chronology of an important event

Reading

- Ministry of Education (1993, 162-176)

Class 4.3 .

Article “Organic Agriculture: The Alternative and the Survival of Thai Farmers”

Learn vocabulary about food and agriculture

Assignment

- Answer questions from the article
- Extract main ideas from the article

Reading

- Siamrath Online (2017)

Week 5

Class 5.1 Review for Midterm

Class 5.2 Thai Midterm



Week 6

Class 6.1 Lesson 8

Article “Phra Aphaimanee” (Poem)

In this lesson, students will be learning about:

- Different level of language use

Assignment:

- Choose two stanzas from the story and translate into English poem

Reading

- Ministry of Education (1993, 188-201)

Class 6.2 .

Article “Four Years After NCPO’s Order of Forest Master Plan Failed to Increase Forest Area and Caused Villagers Problems”

Learn vocabulary on forest and land management

Assignment

- Answer questions from the article
- Extract main ideas from the article

Reading

- iLaw (2018)

Week 7

Class No Class

Week 8

Class 8.1 .

Article “Wetland, Sustainable Food”

Learn vocabulary on water management

Assignment

- Answer questions from the article
- Extract main ideas from the article

Reading

- Khaosod (2018).

Class 8.2 Thai Fun Activity 2

Market

Week 9

Class 9.1 .

Article “Social and Cultural Characteristics of Laos PDR”

Learn vocabulary on Lao society and tradition

Assignment

- Answer questions from the article
- Extract main ideas from the article

Reading

- Government Public Relations Office (2016)

Week 10

Class No class

Week 11

Class 11.1 Presentation from Laos and Grammar

Assignment

- 15 minutes PowerPoint presentation of Laos visit

Article “Mining and the Management of Environmental and Health Problems”

Learn vocabulary on mining

Assignment

- Answer questions from the article
- Extract main ideas from the article

Reading

- Linagcharoen, P (2016)

Week 12

Class No class

Week 13

Class No class

Week 14

Class 14.1 Review for Thai Final

Week 15

Class 15.1 Thai Final

Course Materials

Readings

Ministry of Education (1993), Basic Thai Language: Primary 4 Book 1, BKK: Kurusapa Printing Ladphrao (in Thai)

Online Resources

Government Public Relations Office (2016). Social and Cultural Characteristics of Laos PDR. Retrieved from http://www.asean thai.net/ewt_news.php?nid=5505&filename=index (in Thai)

iLaw (2018). Four Years After NCPO's Order of Forest Master Plan Failed to Increase Forest Area and Caused Villagers Problems. Retrieved from <https://ilaw.or.th/node/4840> (in Thai)

Khaosod (2016). Wetland: Sustainable Food. Retrieved from https://www.khaosod.co.th/view_newsonline.php?newsid=1468565421 (in Thai)

Linagcharoen, P (2016). Mining and the Management of Environmental and Health Problems. Retrieved from <http://www.bangkokbiznews.com/blog/detail/637905> (in Thai)

Siamrath Online (2017). Organic Agriculture: The Alternative and the Survival of Thai Farmers. Retrieved from <https://siamrath.co.th/n/12607> (in Thai)