



CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course title:	Beginning Thai I
Course code:	THAI 1001 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:

- understand, make basic requests, and meet daily needs by communicating in Thai
- be able to describe, narrate, and ask/answer questions in Thai about a variety of topics related to family, daily activities, eating, and traveling.
- feel comfortable using Thai language in any setting
- learn and use the 'Issue-Based' language as a tool to discuss with and understand local villagers' ways of life, as well as health situations.

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.

The format of testing will be a 15-20 minute response to visual prompts and simulated situations. It will be an online test which allows 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



No previous courses are required for this course. However, students will encounter difficulties as Thai is a new language to them. Therefore, concentration and effort are necessary tools for them to overcome obstacles to learning.

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	15%
2.	Quiz I	10%
3.	Quiz II	15%
4.	Midterm Exam	20%
5.	Final Exam	25%
6.	Participation	15%
	TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Assignments

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

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 question - 5%

Midterm Exam

Thai midterm is similar to Thai quiz in which students respond to series of questions with a teacher. However, the questions for the midterm are more complex forms of questions. Apart from responding to the questions, students are required to prepared 3 questions to ask teachers within looking at the notes.

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 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%

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 Part 1

“My name is Jim”.

- Greet and introducing themselves
- Asking someone’s name and country they are from.

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 2-6

Class 1.2 Lesson 1 Part 2

“My name is Jim”.

- Exchange personal information.

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 7-11

Class 1.3 Thai Fun Activity 1

Learning about numbers through game.

“Bingo and numbers”

Week 2

Class 2.1 Lesson 2

“Jim is Enjoying Thai Food”

- Glossary of food, cooking, and drink
- Ordering a meal in the restaurant
- Thai and I-Saan Traditional food

Reading

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011: 13-26

Class 2.2 Lesson 3

“Jim’s Family”

- Family members
- Occupations and livelihood

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 28-37

Class 2.3 Lesson 4

“How does Jim spend his days?”

- Clock time
- Period of time
- Talking about your daily routine

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 39-52

Class 2.4 Peer Tutor 1

Week 3

Class 3.1 Quiz 1

Class 3.2 Lesson 5

“Where was Jim yesterday?”

- Present, past, and future events
- Leisure-time activities

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 54-63

Class 3.3 Peer Tutor 2

Week 4

Class 4.1 Lesson 6

“Jim is at the market”

- Clothing and personal items
- Color and size
- Shopping at the market
- Recipe

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 65-73

Class 4.2 Lesson 7

“Where is the bookstore?”

- Asking about location
- Asking for direction

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 75-83

Class 4.3 Peer Tutor 3

Class 4.4 Thai Agrarian Way of Life

Vocabulary and story about farming. Students will be able to talk with farmers about farming and the nature of the farmer’s input.

Homework assignment: Talk to homestay families on trip and present to class

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 124-150

Week 5

Class 5.1 Review for Midterm

Class 5.2 Thai Midterm

Class 5.3 Peer Tutor 4



Week 6

Class 6.1 Lesson 8

Presentation of Community Visit 1 and Vocabulary

“How do you feel?”

- Feeling expressions

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 85-90

Class 6.2 Peer Tutor 5

Week 7

Class 7.1 Forest Community

Vocabulary and story about a reserve forest that overlaps with the homes and farmland of the people who had lived there for many generations.

Homework assignment: Talk to homestay families on trip and present to class

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 131-136

Week 8

Class 8.1 Presentation of Community Visit 2 and Vocabulary

Class 8.2 Dam

Vocabulary and story about the relationship of villagers to water and river.



Homework assignment: Talk to homestay families on trip and present to class

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 138-143

Week 9

Class 9.1 Lesson 9

Presentation of Community Visit 3 and Vocabulary

“Jim has a Terrible Cold”

- Health problems
- Medications and remedies

Homework assignment: Prepare presentation about International Trip

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 92-99

Week 10

Class No class

Week 11

Class 11.1 Mining

Vocabulary and story about villagers affected by mining

Homework assignment: Talk to homestay families on trip and present to class

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 145-150

Class 11.2 Lesson 10

Presentation from International Trip

“Jim is Very Handsome”

- Describing appearances and personalities

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 101-109

Week 12

Class No class

Week 13

Class 13.1 Lesson 11

Presentation of Community Visit 5 and Vocabulary

“Jim’s House”

- Describing home
- Household items

Reading:

- Rattanakhemakorn, 2011; 111-122

Week 14

Class 14.1 Review for Thai Final

Week 15

Class 15.1 Thai Final

Course Materials



Readings

Rattanakhemakorn, Jintana. *Real Thai, Real Thailand: Thai for Beginners*. Khon Kaen, Thailand: Council on International Educational Exchange, 2011.

Online Resources

“Beginning Thai audio and video-clips” provide the vocabulary, patterns, and dialogues of each lesson <http://thai.cieekk.org/>