

## Thai Language

**Semester in Chiang Mai: Society and Culture of Thailand**

Short Name: Thai Language

Credits: 4

Contact hours: 66 total

### Course Description

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This course focus on conversational and functional Thai language acquisition. Language classes start on the first day, and continue throughout the semester. Thai is a challenging tonal language, and students will be studying daily so that they are better prepared to live and learn in Thailand.

This course covers both written and spoken Thai. The course uses a competency based approach and is designed for beginners for whom Thai is a second language. The emphasis on this course is on speaking, listening comprehension, and reading and writing skills.

This course provides fundamental language skills in Thai helping students to practice and build vocabulary, use Thai in daily life, as well as use Thai during courses and independent learning during their time in Thailand.

The schedule and topics of the course are flexible and depend on student progress and comprehension.

Assessment includes both written and oral exams.

### Course Objectives

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The objectives for this course are that:

- Students will have a core working vocabulary and fluency sufficient for daily life in Thailand
- Be able to carry out basic conversations in Thai with good comprehension and understanding
- Will have the capacity to be independent learners of Thai, adding contextually appropriate vocabulary and phrases as needed in their studies and independent learning

### Methodology

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Classes are in small groups primarily in Thai, with some discussion of cultural or related issues in English as needed. The instruction uses several language teaching methods to help student progress quickly to a basic and useful level of Thai language competency.

## Grading and Assessment

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<b>Course Component Details</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Class Attendance and Participation</b>	<b>10</b>
Class participation in this course means on-time attendance, active involvement in the classroom and during other activities, being responsive and active in peer teaching/learning, exhibiting locally appropriate dress and behavior, and regularly bringing personal experiences from outside the classroom to class for focused discussion.	
<b>Homework and Assignments</b>	<b>20</b>
Homework will be assigned for you to review and practice on learned topics that relate to your daily living. This will include reading and writing assignments, and speaking in class about daily activities, interactions with Thai people and cross-cultural experiences. If the student hands in an assignment in delay, the grade will be reduce base on the instructor criteria.	
<b>Tone Test</b>	<b>10</b>
This test focuses on analyzing the word and correct pronunciation. You will have 20 minutes to write the tone that corresponds with the given words. One student per time, will then pronounce the words to an instructor who was not his/her primary language instructor.	
<b>Reading Test</b>	<b>15</b>
This test focuses on comprehension of Thai vocabulary, conjunctions and question words. You will have one and a half hours to compete the test.	
<b>Oral Presentation</b>	<b>20</b>
The presentation is a 10 minute individual presentation with Thai instructors assessing the presentation. The Thai language instructors will give students the topic rubrics during the course. The grade is based on the presentation content, organization, and language proficiency.	
<b>Final Oral Exam</b>	<b>25</b>
The final oral exam is a 30 minute conversational interview with a Thai language instructor who is not the student's primarily language instructor. Assessment is based on conversational ability, vocabulary, fluency, pronunciation, and tones.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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## Course Materials

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**Thai Speaking for Beginners Book:** The purpose of this book is to supplement what you learned in class with more speaking practice. It includes vocabulary, sentence structure, examples of how to use question words, conversations, language notes, and culture notes.

**Thai Reading for Beginners Book:** The purpose of this book is to supplement what you learned in class with additional reading about Thai language rules. This includes a review of Thai grammar, consonant classes, tone rules, and vowels.

**Thai Workbook for Beginners:** The purpose of this workbook is to practice and review what you learned in class. There are various exercises and each lesson correspond to what your Thai language instructor has taught in class. Your assignments in this workbook will be graded by your Thai language instructor. Additional assignments may be given through at the course and will also be graded by your Thai language instructor.

# Course Topics and Schedule

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## **Seminar Schedule: M/T/W – 9-12**

Please note: An important part of this course happens outside of seminars, including field studies, extended field studies, and other experiential learning opportunities. Each of these field studies are an integral part of the course, and will include assignments for the course.

## Weekly Schedule

### **Week 1**

Thai language course orientation, literacy, introductions, numbers, money

### **Week 2**

Literacy, food, beverages

### **Week 3**

Literacy, fruit, tastes, place

### **Week 4: Extended Excursion and Field Study in Mae Taa Village**

### **Week 5**

Literacy, telling time, family, describing people

### **Week 6**

Literacy, social relationship, describing things

### **Week 7**

Literacy, directions, social relationships

### **Week 8: Extended Field Study and Excursion to Karen Village on Doi Inthanon**

### **Week 9: Semester Break (no classes)**

### **Week 10**

Topics in Thai language

### **Week 11**

Topics in Thai language

### **Week 12: Extended Field Study and Excursion: Coastal Community**

### **Week 13**

Topics in Thai language

### **Week 14**

Topics in Thai language

### **Week 15**

Topics in Thai language

### **Week 16**

Finals / End of Semester

## Course Policies

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### Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes. If you are ill or otherwise need to miss a class, please inform your instructor or teaching assistant.

### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in ISDSI 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.

### 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 an 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.

### Grading Standards

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	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B	83–86	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C	73–76	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D	60-66	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
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 Incomplete.