

Thai Conversation

Student Taught Course, winter 2010

Student Instructor: Siripat Sumanaphan (senior, Electrical Engineering)

Sponsoring Professor: Cindy Weinstein

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to Thai pronunciations and conversations for students who are interested in speaking and listening in Thai, especially those who would like to travel to Thailand. Thai words will be transcribed into English and the Thai alphabet will not be taught in this class except for some easy and frequently-used words, students' names, and their hometowns and countries or as requested by each individual. Each two-hour lecture will cover a new topic of the week, a review of the previous topics, and a practice of speaking and listening. Homework, mainly listening exercises, will cover the topic of each week. Grading will be based on class participation and attendance, homework and assignments, mini-quizzes, and a conversation test. At the end of the term, students should be able to write their names, hometowns and countries, and carry on simple conversations with Thai people, especially travel-related conversations.

Course Materials:

Handouts will be distributed in class. Homework assignments and practice files will be posted online.

Grading: 3 units (2-0-1): 2-hour class each week except for week 10 may last up to 3 hours. Students can take this course only for Pass/Fail. The passing score is at least 75% of the total scores.

Class participation/attendance 40%

Homework/assignments 30%

Conversation test 25%

Mini-quizzes 5%

Class participation and attendance (10x4%)

Students may be absent from the class up to 2 times without score deduction, but additional work will be assigned to prove that the student can catch-up the missing topic; otherwise, 4% will be deduct for each absence. Attendance on the last week is required due to the in-class conversation test.

Homework and assignments (8x3% + 1x6%)

There will be 8 homework assignments. The homework is mainly listening to sentences or short conversations from the topic of the current and previous weeks. Students will then answer questions the sentences and conversations. One assignment will be given on week 9. Each student will meet with a Thai student and practice for the conversation test.

Conversation test (25%)

The conversation test is an in-class test. Students will have conversations with Thai people about the topics covered in class.

Mini quizzes (10x0.5%)

At the beginning of each class, each student will be randomly asked a short and easy question from previous weeks.

Topics by week:

1. Pronunciation, greeting and self introduction
2. Pronouns, numbers, colors, feeling, simple adjectives, and classifiers
3. Sentence structure, question and answer
4. Date, time, body, and daily life
5. Home, family, animals, and school
6. Foods, drinks, households, shopping, and currency
7. Nature, weather, accident, and emergency
8. People, travelling, transportation and vehicles
9. Important and popular places, festivals and events
10. Conversation test