

# Beginning Burmese (ASIALANG 307 002)

University of Wisconsin, Madison

## Course Syllabus 2024

**Instructors:** Chan Lwin

**Class:** [REDACTED]; M-F (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

**Office hours:** [REDACTED]; Tuesdays & Thursdays (2:00 – 4:00 p.m)  
or by appointment ([REDACTED])

### Objectives

This course aims to help develop all four language skills, namely speaking, listening, reading and writing, for learners who have not had any or little exposure to Burmese before. The overall language pedagogy is based on a communicative and proficiency based approach: the focus on students' demonstration of desired learning outcomes. Students gain the skills, abilities, and knowledge required in an area of study, along with those necessary to be successful in real-world situations. Learners are thus required to participate in various activities that are designed to help them master the linguistic skills at the basic level, up to Intermediate Low as defined by American Council on the Teachings of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), which is defined as follows for this course:

- Ability to handle a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks by **creating with the language** in straightforward social situations.
- Ability to engage in brief concrete exchanges and predictable topics necessary for **survival in the Burmese-speaking culture** around personal information and immediate needs.
- Ability to **read and write (and type) Burmese script** and comprehend texts in everyday topics for both colloquial and literary settings.

Speaking Skills: By the end of this course, you will know how to

- Introduce yourself and friends/family
- Shop and negotiate the prices
- Make small talks on weather and hometown
- Follow and provide directions around your neighborhood
- Order food and drinks at tea shops
- Talk about hobbies and frequencies of your favorite activities
- Ask for permission for simple things you want to do
- Express what you will do after class and make future plans

Writing Skill: By the end of this course, you will know how to

- Write and pronounce basic scripts and vowels
- Type basic Burmese scripts and vowels
- Write simple phrases and sentences that are frequently used

## Requirements

Given that language acquisition is a complex process that can be best achieved through a consistent and active participation in learning activities, learners are required to attend all classes and engage in all in-class activities everyday throughout the whole course period of SEASSI. Furthermore, all assignments to do outside must be submitted as specified by the instructors. Failure to fulfill these requirements will not only result in your personal failure to learn Burmese, but also in negatively affecting your grades (see grading criteria below for details).

Cultural-sessions, organized 3 times a week, are designed to create a forum for discussions on all matters related to learning Burmese, with a special emphasis on pragmatics of language use, that take into account a crucial role of socio-cultural aspects of Burmese. Active participation in the forum is required as a part of course work. Guest speakers or guest lecturers will utilize these sessions to broaden the perspectives of Burmese learners.

Final exam dates cannot be rescheduled, except for medical emergencies, for which an official medical certificate must be provided.

Be sure to follow all other specific instructions as they are given throughout the course period. Be sure to seek advice from the instructors if you have any doubts or concerns about your language learning process as soon as possible without waiting until the approaching exam periods.

## Required textbook:

§ Hnin Tun, San San (2014), *Colloquial Burmese: the complete course for beginners*, London, Routledge

## Other Resources

§ Saw Tun, *Burmese script*

§ Okell, John (1994), *Burmese: An introduction to the script*, Northern Illinois University

§ Okell, John (1994), *Burmese: An introduction to the spoken language, Book I*, Northern Illinois University

§ NIU seasite (Myanmar): <http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Burmese/>

## Assessment

Your work in the course will be assessed through a daily evaluation of your participation in class, assignments turned in as required, quizzes (dates TBA) and

a final exam assessing 4 skills (oral, reading, listening, and writing).  
 Grading criteria (for ASIALANG 307 003 & ASIALANG 308 003)

§ Attendance & Participation: 30%

§ Projects: 20%

§ Homework and assignments: 20%

§ Quizzes: 10%

§ Final: 20%

**Time table:**

**17<sup>th</sup> June – 12<sup>th</sup> July (the second half: TBA)**

	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Session I</b>	<b>8:00-9:00</b>	<b>8:00-9:15</b>	<b>8:00-9:00</b>	<b>8:00-9:15</b>	<b>8:00-8:50</b>
<b>Break I</b>	<b>9:00-9:10</b>	<b>9:15-9:30</b>	<b>9:00-9:10</b>	<b>9:15-9:30</b>	<b>8:50-9:00</b>
<b>Session II</b>	<b>9:10-10:10</b>	<b>9:30-10:40</b>	<b>9:10-10:10</b>	<b>9:30-10:40</b>	<b>9:00-9:50</b>
<b>Break II</b>	<b>10:10-10:25</b>	<b>10:40-10:55</b>	<b>10:10-10:25</b>	<b>10:40-10:55</b>	<b>9:50-10:00</b>
<b>Session III</b>	<b>10:25-11:15</b>	<b>10:55-12:00</b>	<b>10:25-11:15</b>	<b>10:55-12:00</b>	<b>10:00-10:50</b>
<b>Break III</b>	<b>11:15-11:30</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>11:15-11:30</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>10:50-11:10</b>
<b>Cultural Session</b>	<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>11:10-12:00</b>

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UW-Madison's community of scholars in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct compromises the integrity of the university. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment/course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. Substantial or repeated cases of misconduct will be

forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards for additional review. For more information, refer to [studentconduct.wiscweb.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/](http://studentconduct.wiscweb.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/).

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy ([UW-855](#)) require the university to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities to access and participate in its academic programs and educational services. Faculty and students share responsibility in the accommodation process. Students are expected to inform faculty of their need for instructional accommodations during the beginning of the semester, or as soon as possible after being approved for accommodations. Faculty will work either directly with the student or in coordination with the McBurney Center to provide reasonable instructional and course-related accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. (See: [McBurney Disability Resource Center](#))

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