



The Intermediate Lao Language Course Syllabus 2024

Course Subject, Number, and Title

ASIALANG - LAO 407 (3rd semester)

ASIALANG – LAO 408 (4th semester)

Credits: – 8 credits

Course Designations and Attributes

Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute, SEASSI - Lao Language and Culture Courses

Meeting Time and Location

Class Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 12:25 PM (Central time of the North America) Period I: 8:30 – 9:20

Period II: 9:30 – 10:20

Break: 10:20 – 10:35

Period III: 10:35 – 11:25

Period IV: 11:35 – 12:25

Instructional Mode: All face-to-face

INSTRUCTOR – Dr. Sam Inthaly

AVAILABILITY:

Office hours: M – Thu.: 2 – 4 PM or by appointment

Office: [REDACTED]

Phones: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Language and Cultures of Asia ASIALANG-LAO 407/408 is the equivalent of a year-long or two semester sequence designed to continue and refine the goals of ASIALANG 307/308 by bringing students well beyond beginning level of Lao to a level of speaking, listening, reading, and writing proficiency that allows students to communicate in a sophisticated fashion with educated native speakers on a variety of topics, including religion, local history and folklore, news and public information including speeches and advertising. The development of spoken proficiency relative to these topics is linked throughout the course with written materials; the textbook used in this course will, in many cases, overlap with those used in Beginning Lao (ASIALANG 307/308).

There are 12 unit-themes be covered this summer courses. Each theme begins with a vocabulary preview in a photo dictionary format. These lessons offer students an apparent visual reference and study tool for

previewing and mastering more than 1000 keywords in-class lessons. The class will consist mostly of communicative, task-based, or project-based activities, allowing students to use spoken and written Lao to mirror real-life social or academic situations. Lectures will also be given on Lao grammar, the writing system, the use of final particles, sentence structures, and other materials to indicate nuance of expression and to develop a spoken style. These lectures will be entirely in Lao, except for short explanations in English of difficult materials from time to time. Students are expected to use appropriate classroom Lao language at all times in class, including when talking to other students.

Many common sight words that center each unit are expected to be recognized and memorized. Learning activities focus on obtaining language of essential life skills which are organized around a unit theme. Each unit begins with a vocabulary preview in photo dictionary format, which can be used as a study tool for mastering keywords that occur in the unit. The core lessons provide sufficient practice for students to achieve the lesson objectives. **Guided conversations** are the dialogues and exercises that are the essential learning devices throughout the course. Model conversations depict situations in which people use the key vocabulary of each lesson. In the following exercises, students create their own conversations by placing new vocabulary items into the framework of the model. Follow-up exercises and activities provide practice and learning skills through speaking competency in action, games, writing activities, listening exercises, community connections, collective learning activities, and journal writing. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) guidelines are tools for key competencies and instructional objectives. The proficiency-based and communicative methods are implemented in the instructional strategies.

A big part of learning the Lao language this summer is **culture**. It is important to make the classroom a distinctly Lao cultural environment. Students are also expected **to use appropriate classroom Lao language at all times**, both in and outside the class, while learning Lao language courses, including talking to other students. Failure to perform in this regard will hurt one's grade just as much as not doing homework or not attending class. Students must show appropriate respect for their instructor and their peers. Proficiency in using Lao Unicode on the computer is expected to be an important part of learning the Lao language.

Requisites

This course is intended for students who, through completing courses such as 307/308, self-study, or family experience, have attained a solid "beginning" level of spoken and written Lao proficiency. The students' spoken proficiency level will be determined in a structured intake evaluation administered by the instructor on the first day of class. The course assumes a clear knowledge of the basics of written Lao, including instant recognition of all written consonants, vowels, subscripts, and most diacritics, and the ability to write these during dictation. Students should be able to read basic Lao folk tales in Lao with little difficulty. Students should also be able to perform basic spoken tasks using basic vocabulary.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After two months of intensive learning at the SEASSI, learners can reach a different level of learning from stage one to stage two or from stage two to stage three. The progress of the learning stage depends on individual learning experiences and backgrounds. However, learning goals cannot be reached without a full participation and effort throughout the course of learning. Following are learning outcomes in four language skills and cultural competency expected after two months of intensive learning at SEASSI.

ການສຶກສາ ' ສາຍ ' າງເປັນອັດຕະໂນມັດ Interpersonal Communication

- Students can **express** themselves and **participate** in conversations on familiar topics using sentences and series of sentences. They can also handle short social interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering various questions.
- Students can **communicate** about themselves, others, and everyday life.
- Students can **understand**, **ask**, and **answer** various questions and consistently initiate, maintain, and **end** a conversation to satisfy basic needs and handle a simple transaction.
- Students can **understand** straightforward language that contains mostly familiar structures and be able to control sufficient language to be understood by those accustomed to dealing with language learners.
- Students can **recognize** and **use** some culturally appropriate vocabulary, expressions, and gestures when participating in everyday interactions. They can realize that differences exist in cultural behaviors and perspectives and can conform in familiar situations.

ການສຶກສາ ' ສາຍ ' າງນໍາສະເຫນີ Presentational Communication

- Students can **communicate** information and **express** their thoughts about familiar topics using sentences and series of sentences.
- Students can **present** information and personal preferences on familiar topics by creating with language primarily in the present time.
- Students can **create** messages in contexts relevant to themselves, others, and their immediate environment.
- Students can **produce** sentences, series of sentences, and some connected sentences and **use** vocabulary on various everyday topics, topics of personal interest, and topics that have been studied.
- Students can **use** some culturally appropriate vocabulary, expressions, and gestures.

ການສຶກສາ ' ສາຍ ' າງແປຄວາມຫມາຍ Interpretive Communication

- Students can **understand** the main ideas and some supporting details on familiar topics from various texts.
- Students can **comprehend** information related to basic personal and social needs and relevant to their immediate environment, such as self and everyday life, school, community, and particular interests.
- Students can **comprehend** simple stories, routine correspondence, short descriptive texts, or other selections within familiar contexts.
- Students can **comprehend** high-frequency vocabulary related to everyday topics and high frequency idiomatic expressions.

Proficiency in Culture

Learners can have a profound of:

- **Awareness:** Develop an understanding of the characteristics of Lao culture and history; familiarize yourself with using the Lao language in a cultural, sensitive, and appropriate setting.

• **Knowledge:** continue building cultural knowledge in the areas of Lao history, traditions, religion, and the ways of life of Lao people in general. At this stage of learning, students can understand new information, but it still helps if that information is specially geared to a new speaker's needs. This means that meaning must often be negotiated. To keep increasing comprehension fluency during this stage, the key ingredient is to understand information that everyone in the culture knows about and learn it in connection with the language associated with them. Because students can now understand much of the linguistic content, it is possible to develop more ability for top-down processing of "new" information in the non-linguistic content. With adequate input, learners should develop a sense of the different discourse genres and registers of speech.

EXAMS, QUIZZES, HOMEWORK & OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be evaluated according to the following criteria for each course, 407/408 separately:

- Participation 30%
- Individual Study Project 20%
- Homework Assignments:
 - Pre-activities 15%
 - Post-learning activities 15%
- Quizzes, Tests, Assessments 10%
- Final Exam 10%

GRADING

Grades are based on the total of the accumulated points according to the above evaluation criteria.

A	100 – 95	C	79 – 75
AB	94 – 90	CD	74 – 70
B	89 – 85	D	69 – 60
BC	84 - 80	F	59 - below

LABORATORY SESSIONS

TBA

DISCUSSION SESSIONS – Round Table at 2 pm on Thursday of June 27th, July 11th/18th/25th, and August 1st at the [REDACTED].

- REQUIRED TEXTBOOK, SOFTWARE & OTHER COURSE MATERIALS**
1. Main textbook: Lao Language Study by Dr. Sam Inthaly will be available to purchase on the first day of the class.
 2. Daily hand-outs and other copies related to learning topics.
 3. Dictionary Lao-English, English-Lao by Russel Marcus, Charles E. Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont & Tokyo, Japan, and <http://www.sealang.net/lao/dictionary.htm>.
 4. Watch informational videos in Lao and listen to recordings of Lao news broadcasts from the internet and Lao TV.
 5. Listen to the Audio CD and list of vocabulary recordings of each unit

Participation:

This is an intensive language learning program. Students are required to come to class **on time** from the beginning of the session until the end of the session. Every minute counts and **active participation** in and outside class activities is essential. **Elective absence** is discouraged in the strongest possible terms. A day of absence reduces the highest possible grade. Illness and death of the immediate family member will be handled on an individual basis.

RULES, RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- See the Guide's [Rules, Rights and Responsibilities](#)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

For more information, refer to studentconduct.wiscweb.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA." <http://mcburney.wisc.edu/facstaffother/faculty/syllabus.php>

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who, as students, faculty, and staff, serve Wisconsin and the world." <https://diversity.wisc.edu/>

Overview of the Intermediate Weekly Lessons

June 17th – August 9th, SEASI 2024

<p>Week 1, June 17th to June 21th</p>	<p>Week 5, July 15th to July 19th</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, June 17th – SEASSI Orientation, placement testing, & individual interview with instructor • Library Orientation – @ [REDACTED], Time (TBA) <li style="padding-left: 40px;">- Unit 1: Me & Family <li style="padding-left: 40px;">- Basic Lao review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Unit 7</u>: Food - <u>Unit 8</u>: Clothing & Shopping - Live syllables with the final consonants ງ - Thursday: Round Table at 2 pm, [REDACTED] • Friday: Quiz • Kindly reminder of submitting an outline of the independent project
<p>Week 2, June 24th to June 28th</p>	<p>Week 6, July 22nd to July 26th</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Unit 2</u>: School - Dead syllables with final consonants ງ • Thursday – Round Table at 2 pm, [REDACTED] • Friday – Quiz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Unit 9</u>: Time, Calendar, and Weather - <u>Unit 10</u>: Occupation - Live syllables with the final consonants ມ - Lao Movie: The Long Walk, Tuesday, July 23rd • Monday: Poetry Fest from 3 to 5 pm • Thursday: Round Table at 2 pm, [REDACTED] • Friday: Quiz
<p>Week 3, July 1th to July 5th</p>	<p>Week 7, July 29th to August 2nd</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Unit 3</u>: Home - <u>Unit 4</u>: Community - Dead syllables with the final consonant ງ • Holiday of the 4th of July, No School on Thursday • Friday: Quiz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Unit 11</u>: Direction, Transportation, & Traveling - <u>Unit 12</u>: Recreation & Festival - Live syllables with the final consonants ມ, ຄ, ງ - Kindly reminder of submitting a draft of the complete independent study • Thursday: Cooking class – 3rd and 4th period ○ Round Table at 2 pm, [REDACTED] • Friday: Quiz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SEASSI FINALE from 2 – 4 PM
<p>Week 4, July 8th to July 12th</p>	<p>Week 8, August 5th to August 9th</p>

- Unit 5: Body, Health, and Feeling

- Unit 6: Daily Life

- Dead syllables with the final consonant U

• Thursday: Round Table at 2 pm, [REDACTED]

• Final test of the 1st semester

- Reading and Listening scaffolding

• Wednesday: Assessments: Listening & reading •

Thursday – Presentation of the Independent Study Project

• Friday – Final test of the 2nd semester

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