

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON
Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI)
ASIALANG 307 & 308 SYLLABUS – 2025
ELEMENTARY VIETNAMESE (8 CREDITS)

Class meeting time: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Office hours: [REDACTED]

Language table: [REDACTED]

Instructor	Contact
Hong Dinh	Zoom: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Sign up for language table and office hours [REDACTED]

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course offers a streamlined introduction to Vietnamese for beginners. It is thoughtfully designed to equip students with essential vocabulary and language structures, enabling them to participate in basic daily conversations and compose short written passages. In addition to language skills, students will gain exposure to key aspects of Vietnamese culture.

The course follows a communicative approach, emphasizing practical language use to build both linguistic and communicative competence. Vietnamese will be the primary language of instruction. Questions requiring English clarification will be addressed outside of class time, during office hours.

DELIVERY

Classes will be conducted in person. Canvas will serve as the primary learning platform, and students are expected to access it regularly. The platform will be used extensively for:

- Posting pre- and post-class assignments
- Sharing additional readings and supplementary materials
- Uploading and submitting assignments

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

(Adopted from <https://www.actfl.org/educator-resources/ncssfl-actfl-can-do-statements>)

Interpersonal Communication

- Participate in spontaneous conversations on familiar topics using simple and connected sentences.
- Ask and answer a variety of questions to exchange information in everyday situations.
- Express preferences, feelings, and opinions using connected simple sentences.

Presentational Communication (Speaking and Writing)

- Present information and express thoughts on familiar topics using a series of connected sentences.
- Write short paragraphs to describe experiences, events, or plans.
- Summarize familiar content or personal experiences in a structured way.

Interpretive Communication (Listening and Reading)

- Understand the main idea and some supporting details in short, connected spoken or written texts on familiar topics.
- Identify key information in simple informational texts.
- Interpret meaning from context in everyday messages, announcements, and short narratives.

Pronunciation and Phonological Awareness

- Identify and accurately pronounce the six tones of Vietnamese in isolated words and simple sentences.

TEXTBOOKS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS

Required:

1. **Let's Speak Vietnamese** - 4th or 5th Edition,
Author: Lê Phạm Thúy-Kim and Nguyễn Bích Thuận
ISBN 978-09796015-4-5

2. **Basic Vietnamese Pronunciation**

Author: Hong Dinh

(Free access to the book in the MODULE 0 on CANVAS)

Recommended:

1. **Vietnamese, An Essential Grammar**

Author: Bình Ngo

ISBN 978-1-138-21070-7

2. **Workbook Manual** - 2nd Edition

to accompany Let's Speak Vietnamese - 3rd & 4th Editions

ISBN 978-09796015-5-2

Author: Le Pham Thuy-Kim

Handouts and other sources:

Handouts, selected from culturally authentic sources that may include blogs, songs, poems, short stories, online newspaper/magazine articles, ads, photos, etc. Other sources may include movies, video clips, guest speakers, etc.

COURSE POLICIES

❖ **WISLI Attendance Policy**

Students may miss one class per semester without penalty; a second absence can result in a full grade deduction; three or more absences may lead to an additional grade reduction or automatic failure.

❖ **WISLI Tardiness Policy**

Given the intensive nature of the summer language classes, it is imperative to be ready to join class on time for both 2-hour sessions. To ensure a productive learning environment for all participants, WISLI defines tardiness as the following:

- **Tardiness:** arriving more than 5 minutes late to a class session.
- **Excessive tardiness:** arriving more than 10 minutes late to any session.
- *Tardiness in excess of 30 minutes will be considered an absence for the 2-hour session.*
- **Repeated tardiness:**

Three instances of tardiness will result in a warning. A fourth instance of tardiness will require a meeting with an Academic Director.

Three instances of excessive tardiness (arriving more than 10 minutes late but less than 30) will be counted as one absence for the 2 hours.

Repeated tardiness in excess of 30 minutes will then be subject to the WISLI absence policy. Continued tardiness or excessive tardiness may result in further penalty or dismissal.

WISLI understands that unforeseen circumstances can occur. Please communicate any tardiness or absences to the course instructor as soon as possible.

❖ **WISLI Technology Policy**

There are many helpful online tools available to language learners, and it is expected that these tools are used responsibly and in alignment with UW-Madison expectations of academic integrity and guidelines on generative artificial intelligence. **Do not use translation software such as Google Translate or AI tools such as Microsoft Copilot** unless your instructor directs you to use these tools for assignments or projects. And in these instances, these types of tools are only to be used in the manner permitted by the instructor. Ask your instructor for clarification if you have any questions about what is allowed.

❖ **Make-Up Quizzes and Exams**

Students may be excused from quizzes or exams **only with valid written documentation** (e.g., medical note, official notice). The instructor is not obligated to provide make-up assessments and will do so at their discretion.

❖ **Late Notification**

If you anticipate being late or absent, please notify the instructor in advance via email.

❖ **Pre-Class Preparation**

Students are expected to come to class prepared. This includes reviewing vocabulary and grammar notes and completing pre-class assignments.

❖ **Office Hours**

Students are encouraged to discuss any points of confusion with the instructor after class during office hours.

❖ **Typing in Vietnamese**

Some assignments will require typing in Vietnamese. Students should install Vietnamese language input tools or fonts on their devices. Assistance is available—please reach out to the instructor if you need help setting this up.

❖ **Religious Observances**

Students observing religious holidays may request accommodations for missed assignments, quizzes, projects, or exams. Requests must be submitted at least two days in advance of the affected date(s).

GRADING

Category		Weight	Letter Grade	
Linguistic performance in class		10%	A	100 – 92
Homework Pre-class assignments: 5% Post-class assignments: 15%		20%	AB	91 – 88
Quizzes		20%	B	87 – 82
Task-based projects		20%	BC	81 – 78
Journal		10%	C	77 – 72
Final exams		20%	D	71 – 62
	Oral: 10%		F	≤ 61
	Written: 10%			

- **Linguistic performance:** The linguistic performance grade (10%) is based on students' active participation in class activities. Points may be deducted for incomplete participation or for missing class activities. Performance is evaluated during each class session according to the following criteria:

Points awarded	Criteria
5	Well-prepared, fully engaged, and participated in all tasks and activities.
4	Well-prepared, fully engaged, and participating in all tasks and activities but arrived late. (5-10 minutes).

3	Present, but relatively passive or arrived late (11-15 minutes).
2	Present, but passive or arrived late (16-20 minutes).
1	Significantly late for more than 20 minutes or considerably disturbs the class dynamic.
0	Absent.

- **Homework:** Homework includes exercises from the textbook as well as pre-class and post-class assignments. All assignments must be submitted by the specified due dates. Both handwritten and typed submissions are acceptable; however, files must be submitted in Word, PDF, or JPG format. Late submissions will incur a 5% deduction for each 24-hour period past the deadline. Assignments submitted more than **three days** late will not be accepted.
- **Quizzes:** There will be four quizzes administered on **Fridays of Weeks 1, 2, 5, and 6**. Each quiz will be approximately 30 minutes long and will cover material taught up to the quiz date.
- **Final exams:** There are 2 final exams in the **4th** and **8th** week. Each exam includes a written test and a 10–20-minute oral interview in OPI format.
- **Task-based projects:** There are two task-based projects. Please see the project guidelines for more information.
- **Journal:** There are five Journal entries from 3rd week to 7th week.

WEEKLY PLAN

Students will receive a weekly plan every Friday through CANVAS that details the schedule, lessons, and other information their class will cover in the following week.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The program also offers a Vietnamese Conversation Table on Mondays from 2nd week to 7th week from 4pm to 5 pm at **Education 345**. If there are any changes in the place or schedule, we will notify you in advance.

We also offer some class activities and Cultural Activities that are scheduled throughout the summer. More information about the activities will be announced later. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in these opportunities.

LANGUAGE PORTFOLIO

As language learning is a lifetime venture, documenting the process is important. Students are encouraged to document their language learning progress. Your language portfolio documents your journey in this area. It allows you to follow your own progress, identify strengths and challenges, and adjust your learning goals.

Maintaining your language portfolio is **mandatory** for students in the Vietnamese Flagship Language Initiative (IFLI). For IFLI, particularly, the language portfolio helps articulate what the students learn in the domestic segment prior to the overseas program. If you are not part of IFLI and are interested in developing your own language portfolio, please meet with the Vietnamese instructor during her office hours.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Learning can be uncomfortable; embrace grappling with your thoughts. Communicate with us after class, during an appointment, in a written note, or over email when you feel uncomfortable about an event or discussion relevant to class.

The classroom should be a safe environment that encourages the participation of everyone. With this goal in mind, we can agree and disagree about ideas or views to our heart's content – that is the heart and soul of learning. We will not, however, tolerate personal attacks, or blatant sexist, racist, homophobic, or antagonistic language in the classroom. Do not insult each other or your instructor. Please respect one another's prior experiences and viewpoints.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Orientation:** Monday, June 16, 2025
- **First Day of Instruction:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Weekly Activities

- **Language Table:** Mondays, 4:00–5:00 PM (Weeks 2–7)
- **Quizzes:** Fridays of Weeks 1, 2, 5, and 6
- **Journal Submissions:** Mondays of Weeks 3–7

Projects

- **First Term Project:** Friday of Week 3
- **Second Term Project:** Thursday of Week 7

Final Exams

- **First Term Final (Oral & Written):** Friday of Week 4
- **Second Term Final:**
 - Written: Thursday of Week 8
 - Oral: Friday of Week 8

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

FIRST SEMESTER		
TIME	LESSON	OBJECTIVES (After this chapter, you will learn and be able to)
Week 1*: 06/16-06/20	Pronunciation Part A: 1. Vietnamese alphabet 2. Vietnamese tones and marks Part B: Practice 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ spell in Vietnamese ❖ identify tones and marks
	Chapter 1: Meeting people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ use common terms of address and references

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greeting people 2. Asking and telling name 3. Spelling in Vietnamese 4. Introducing people 5. Talking about nationality 6. Confirming and negating 7. Expression of courtesy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ greet and introduce yourself ❖ introduce each other formally and informally ❖ ask and state nationality ❖ confirm and negate information ❖ apologize and express attitude and regret
	<p>Chapter 2: Personal Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talking about occupation <p>Quiz 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ask and talk about occupation, places of work, and school ❖ ask and state birthplace and hometown ❖ count and use numbers from 1-100 ❖ ask and tell your age ❖ ask and give addresses and phone numbers ❖ confirm and verify the information
<p>Week 2: 06/23-06/27</p>	<p>Chapter 2: Personal Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Asking personal information 3. Asking for addresses and phone numbers 	
	<p>Chapter 3: Daily Routines</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greeting the Vietnamese way 2. Asking the time 3. Talking about daily routine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ greet and take leave in Vietnamese ways ❖ ask and tell time ❖ ask what time an action happened or will happen ❖ ask about the duration of an action ❖ talk about schedules and daily activities
	<p>Pronunciation: Practice 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</p>	
	<p>Quiz 2</p>	
<p>Week 3*: 06/30, 07/01-03 <i>No class on Thu, July 4</i></p>	<p>Chapter 4: Academic Life</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talking about dates 2. Talking about school 3. Talking about past events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ use ordinal numbers from 100-10,000 ❖ talk about the days of the week and dates ❖ talk about the subject and study and fields of specialization ❖ talk about future plans ❖ talk about past, present, and future events
	<p>Chapter 5: Hobbies and Pastimes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talking about pastimes 2. Talking about exercises and sports 3. Talking about abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ inquire and express likes and dislikes ❖ express time frequency ❖ inquire and express capability and incapability ❖ express the intensity of something
	<p>Pronunciation: Practice 11, 12, 13, 14, 15</p>	

	Project 1 presentation	
Week 4: 07/07-07/11	Chapter 6: Family and Relatives 1. Describe one's family 2. Talking about marital status 3. Talking about feeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ talking about family members and relatives ❖ inquire and state someone's marital status ❖ express concerns and ask how someone feels physically and emotionally
	Chapter 7: Physical Appearance 1. Describing physical appearance 2. Stating the reasons/ purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ describe people's facial features and physical appearance ❖ express the duration of time ❖ ask and state purposes
	Pronunciation: Practice 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	
	Final exam 1 (Friday)	
SECOND SEMESTER		
Week 5: 07/14-07/18	Chapter 8: Character Traits 1. Describing personality 2. Making comparisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ describe people's character and qualities ❖ indicate contrasts ❖ inquire and express opinion
	Chapter 9: Students Belongings 1. Talking about one's belongings 2. Indicating possession 3. Indicating location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ask how something is called in Vietnamese ❖ ask how to say something in Vietnamese ❖ talk about things using classifiers ❖ describe things, indicate possession and locations ❖ ask for permission
	Quiz 4	
Week 6: 07/21-07/25	Chapter 10: Shopping 1. Describing your clothes 2. Shopping in Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ describe clothes and accessories ❖ ask and request to see merchandise ❖ ask the price and bargain ❖ exhort someone to do something <p>Numbers above 10,000</p>
	Chapter 11: Weather and Holidays 1. Talking about people 2. Talking about climate 3. Celebrating holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ talk about weather, weather forecast, and climate ❖ talk about how one celebrates a holiday ❖ Research and find information about Tết and Tết Trung Thu

	Quiz 5	
Week 7: 07/30-08/04	Chapter 12: Phone Call 1. Making a personal call 2. Making a business call 3. Making an appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ make personal and business phone calls ❖ leave phone messages ❖ request a business appointment by phone ❖ set up a business appointment by phone ❖ ask for a favor
	Chapter 13: Food and Restaurant 1. Talking about food 2. Talking about your meals 3. Eating out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ talk about food preferences and meals ❖ plan a grocery list ❖ discuss the choice of food to order ❖ order food and beverages ❖ give simple cooking instructions ❖ familiarize yourself with Vietnamese cuisine
	Project 2 presentation	
Week 8: 08/04-08/08	Chapter 14: Houses 1. Describing your home 2. Renting a room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ describe a house and its location ❖ describe a room and its furniture ❖ ask the distance and the duration of time ❖ look for rooms and houses for rent online ❖ rent a room or a house
	Chapter 15: Transportation 1. Talking about transportation 2. Asking for direction 3. Talking about past experience 4. Talking about traveling 5. Planning for a trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ talk about different means of transport ❖ ask and give direction ❖ express time sequences ❖ express imperatives and condition ❖ talk about past experiences ❖ inquire and talk about a travel tour
	Final exam 2 (Thursday & Friday)	

****This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor. Students will be notified of such changes ahead of time via email or in class.**