



Elementary Thai (ASIALANG 307 & 308)

Institution Name: University of Wisconsin–Madison

Credits: By the end of the program, you will complete two, four-credit language courses.

Course Designations and Attributes: First and Second-semester language courses

Course Description: Proficiency at the elementary level in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, using communicative approaches.

Requisites: First-semester language courses require no prior knowledge of the language. Enrollment in subsequent semesters requires successful completion of the preceding semester, equivalent coursework, or demonstrated proficiency as determined by the instructor.

Meeting Time and Location: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (CST), [REDACTED]

Instructional Modality: In-person

Instructor Contact Info:

Name: Pavitra Berger

Email: [REDACTED]

Student support hours: Mondays and Thursday 1.30 – 2.30 p.m. CST and by appointment

(At [REDACTED])

Course Learning Outcomes

Interpersonal:

Communicate and exchange information for basic personal and familiar topics using phrases and simple sentences, sometimes supported by memorized language.

Handle short social interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering questions.

Presentational (speaking and writing):

Present information about themselves and some other familiar topics using language they have practiced using phrases and simple sentences.

Write short messages and notes on familiar topics related to daily activities.

Interpretive (listening and reading):

Understand familiar words, phrases and simple sentences related to everyday life. They will recognize pieces of information and sometimes understand the main topic of what is being said.

Understand words, phrases, and sentences within short and uncomplicated texts related to familiar everyday topics. They can sometimes understand the main ideas of what they have read.

How Credit Hours are Met by the Course

The credit standard for each of the 4-credit courses is met by requiring at least **180 total hours of student engagement** with course learning activities, consistent with the UW–Madison standard of **at least 45 hours of learning activities per credit**. These learning activities include scheduled instructor-student meeting times as well as asynchronous reading, writing, listening, speaking, preparation, homework, projects, studying, and other course-related activities. **Required co-curricular programming** will take place on Fridays, which includes lectures, language practice, cultural sessions, and other structured activities designed to support and extend course learning.

Regular and Substantive Student-Instructor Interaction

This course meets the regular and substantive student-instructor interaction requirement. By engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment through direct instruction, providing feedback on student work, providing information about course content, and facilitating discussion of course content on a weekly basis. Regular and substantive student-instructor interaction, as defined by the US Department of Education (Within 34 C.F.R. §600.2), is always a requirement of UW-Madison for-credit learning activities

Course Overview

At the beginning, students have to familiarize themselves with the AUA transcription symbols; thus, attention is given to sound production and representation. Students are expected to listen to online audio materials to improve listening skills and pronunciation. By the end of the first week, the Thai writing and reading system will be introduced and eventually fully replaced the transcription symbols.

Right from the start, students will be prepared to handle simple survival tasks and straightforward social situations using Thai such as introducing self and others, discussing daily activities, asking for and giving directions, describing places and locations, expressing preferences, making comparisons, making requests, telling time, buying and bargaining,

traveling, reading simple advertisements and simple stories, and writing short lists, notes and short messages. Basic grammar and structure are presented and taught in real life contexts. Aspects of Thai culture will be integrated in the instruction when appropriate.

Thai will be the main language of instruction: questions or concerns that require the use of English are addressed outside of class.

Course Website and Digital Instructional Tools

- [SEASSI](#)
- [REDACTED]

Required Textbook, Software, and Other Course Materials

- **Speaking Thai 1 & 2** Textbooks and **Writing Thai Workbook** – can be downloaded from Canvas under the course name.
- **AUA Language Center, Reading and Writing: Text (mostly reading)** can be ordered either from [Amazon](#) or Cornell University Press.
- Additional materials will be provided in class or uploaded on Canvas.
- [REDACTED]

Homework and Other Assignments

This course will utilize Canvas where students will practice and review topics, submit assignments and receive information about the course.

- Daily: Can be paper and/or sound/video clips. (Submit **paper homework in class** and **sound/video clips via Canvas.**)
- Submit all homework and assignments and pre-class activities **by 8.30 am** on the next day by the due date. Submitting homework and assignments via email is not allowed except when specifically noted by the instructor.
- Each homework and assignment are worth 10 points. Late homework will be subject to a 1-point deduction from the full score for each day that it is late. Late homework may be submitted a maximum of one day after the due date.
- All homework and assignments must be written on **lined paper, double spaced and use a black or deep blue pen.**

- Please be assured that our only goal is helping you learn Thai language, and to know more about Thai society and culture. The purpose of feedback in the assessment and learning process is to improve a student's performance. We encourage you to read our feedback in order to help you learn from your performance and apply what you have learned to revision and future assessment.

Course Policies

- Students are expected to come to class on time. Repeated tardiness will result in a lowered grade.
- Absences on days of exam, projects, presentations etc. will lead to failure of that coursework except in case of documented emergencies. There will be **no make-ups** of quizzes, projects, presentations etc. due to absence.
- Students must come to class prepared for every session. This requires students to study the relevant vocabulary and patterns in the Textbook, and complete pre-task activities such as homework and assignments given before the class. The point of the in-class session is to practice, perform and discuss what you have worked on/ learned from the assigned tasks.
- Students are encouraged to **print out materials** to use during the class.
- Students who will be absent must contact the instructor via email **before the class starts**. Students who are absent are still responsible for turning in assignments on time.
- Smartphones must be turned off or silenced and kept out of sight during class time.
- Take pair work or small group work seriously. Remember that your peer's learning is partly dependent upon your engagement.
- Respect others' right to hold opinions and beliefs that differ from your own. Be open to hearing their perspectives. Be open to changing your perspectives based on what you learn from others. Be okay with disagreement.
- Students must contact the instructors if they have any questions regarding the class, grades, homework and assignments, etc. Questions, concerns or other questions that require the use of English are addressed outside of class time during the teacher's office hours.

Exams, Quizzes, Papers, and Other Major Graded Work

Quizzes

The quiz will cover the materials given on previous week(s)/day(s) **at the beginning of the class** for ten minutes. The quiz will be divided into three days:

- **Mondays:** there will be a quiz on vocabulary, grammar.
- **Wednesdays:** there will be a quiz on speaking and listening.
- **Fridays:** there will be a quiz on reading and writing Thai.

Students must come to class on time. Students will not receive extra time to complete the quiz if they come to class late on the assigned quiz day.

Project

The Project will be assessed by the presentation of one project at the end of each semester. The presentation will be scaffolded throughout the course. The 1st project will be presented on Thursday, July 9, 2026 and the 2nd project will be presented on Thursday, August 6, 2026. Additional information will be available on Canvas.

Final Exam

Final exams will contain both oral and written exams. The 1st final will be on Friday, July 10, 2026 and the 2nd final will be on Friday, August 7, 2026.

Course Schedule/Calendar

The courses will begin with the focus on verbal communication. (The reading-writing skills in Thai will gradually be introduced and by the end of the summer, students should know the whole reading-writing system and be able to go on practicing on their own.)

Week 1 - Phonetic transcription, sounds of consonants and vowels, classroom language; greetings and small talk (greetings and leave taking, self-introduction); introducing the Thai Reading and Writing system

Week 2 - Talking about places and describing their locations; numbers; basic comparison of people and places

Week 3 - Describing things around classroom and university; learning languages; describing places, basic characteristics of people and expressing preferences of people and places

Week 4 - Describing family and kinship terms; occupations; telling time (days and months), talking about clothing and colors; talking about daily activities.

Final project and final presentation: July 9, 2026

Final Exam: July 10, 2026

Week 5 - Describing food items & fruits; identifying tastes and going to the market: buying and selling (bargaining)

Week 6 - Cooking Thai food; giving and following instructions; inviting/ accepting and declining invitations; eating out at a restaurant

Week 7 - Asking for and giving directions; description of places and providing details; describing pastime activities

Week 8 - Asking for and giving information on traveling; talking about weather and seasons; inquiring and responding to sickness, getting treatments and talking about feelings.

Final Presentation and final project: August 6, 2026

Final Exam: August 7, 2026

Oral Proficiency Interview will be conducted during the last week.

Weekly class schedule

Time	Mon-Thu	Fri
8.30-9.30 am	Session 1	Session 1
9.30-9.35 am (5 min)	Short break	Short break
9.35-10.30 am	Session 2	Session 2
10.30-11.20 am (50 min)	Lunch break	**11.00 am - co-curricular Friday programming**
11.20 am -12.20 pm	Session 3	
12.20-12.25 pm (5 min)	Short break	
12.25 -1.30 pm	Session 4	

Required co-curricular Friday programming is as follows:

Friday, June 19 11:00 am Global Professionals Panel Sessions

Friday, June 26	11:00 am	Language Practice Tables
Friday, July 3	TBD	WISLI Research Symposium
Friday, July 10	8:30 am	Final Exams
Friday, July 17	–	Asynchronous Review/Study Day
Friday, July 24	11:00 am	Language Practice Tables
Friday, July 31	11:00 am	Intercultural Learning Session
Friday, August 7	8:30 am	Final Exams

Grading

Participation

Active classroom participation will be assessed based on **daily** participation and full attendance in class using the following rubric:

- 4** Being on time, well prepared, completed pre-task activities, engaged and fully and successfully participated in all classroom activities with the highest level of motivation and willingness. Followed all internet requirements and Classroom Policies.
- 3** Late but not more than 5 minutes and/or engaged and fully participates in some classroom activities but does not seem well- prepared for class and doesn't follow some of the internet requirements and classroom policies.
- 2** More than 5 minutes late and/or forgets textbook and materials, does not complete pre-task activities, does not complete homework, does homework in class, and is engaged and participates in some classroom activities.
- 1** More than 10 minutes late and/or present but is not engaged or does not participate, does not show interest in class activities, unprepared.
- 0** More than 30 minutes late and/or not present in class.

Grading scale

Grading Scale

A	92 - 100
AB	87 – 91
B	82 – 86

Evaluation is based on:

a. Participation	20 %
b. Homework	30 %
c. Quizzes	25 %

BC	77 – 81
C	72 – 76
D	62 – 71
F	< 62

d. Project	10 %
e. Final exam	15 %

Classroom conducts

Learning can be uncomfortable; embrace grappling with your thoughts and ideas. 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 viewpoints.

Take pair work or small group work seriously. Remember that your peer's learning is partly dependent upon your engagement. The point of language learning is to practice, perform and discuss what you have worked on/ learned from the assigned tasks and apply what you have learned to express your ideas, and also learn what your peers think.

Thus, we will not tolerate personal attacks, or blatant sexist, racist, homophobic or antagonistic language in the classroom. Do not insult each other or your teachers. Respect one another's prior experience and points of view.

WISLI Program Policies

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.

Tardiness Policy

Tardiness is defined as arriving more than 5 minutes late to the start of class as well as the time immediately following scheduled breaks. **Excessive tardiness** is arriving more than 10 minutes late to class. Tardiness in excess of 30 minutes will be considered a half- or full-day absence. In instances of 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 a half-day absence.
- **Repeated tardiness in excess of 30 minutes** will 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 notify the course instructor of any tardiness or absences as soon as possible.

WISLI Technology Policy

There are many helpful online tools available to language learners, and these tools should be used responsibly and in alignment with UW-Madison expectations of [academic integrity](#) and guidelines on [generative artificial intelligence](#). Do not use translation software or AI tools unless instructed to use these tools for assignments or projects. In these instances, these tools are to be used only in the manner permitted by the instructor. Ask for clarification if you have any questions about what is allowed.

UW-Madison Academic Policies and Statements

- [Academic Calendar and Religious Observances](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Course Evaluations](#)
- [Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Student Health, Well-Being & Basic Needs](#)
- [Privacy of Student Records and the Use of Audio Recorded Lectures](#)
- [Remote Proctoring with Honorlock \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Students' Rules, Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Teaching & Learning Data Transparency](#)