

Beginning Vietnamese

VIET 1003 - 1503 Online Course

(3 Credits)

Vietnam: Vietnamese Language

This syllabus is representative of a typical term. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from term to term.

Course Description

This online course is intended for students with no background in Vietnamese. The objective of this course is to help students acquire a basic working ability in Vietnamese language, with attention paid to integrated skills such as speaking, listening, writing (Roman script), and reading. To this end, the lessons are centered around short dialogues on situations of daily life. Through online methods, students will approach varied learning activities, appealing to different learning strategies.

Each online class includes dialogue, vocabulary, grammar practice and development, task-based activities, and situation dialogues to increase comprehension, and exercises to help students develop communicative skills. Self-learning prior online class participation is needed. No previous knowledge of or experience with Vietnamese language is required.

This online course is designed to teach the communicative approaches, the instructors will teach students how to pronounce the different tones and accents, basic vocabulary and conversational phrases so that they learn to use very natural language that Vietnamese language speakers will easily understand. The online course may be taken as a standalone course or as part of a two-course program that will continue in Vietnam in January Term and enable students to communicate with Vietnamese friends. Without getting overloaded with too much information, the language instructors designed the course into short, instructional videos.

To complete the online course successfully, there are some requirements, such as students will learn directly with Vietnamese Language Instructors through reliable online tools and they have to attend every session. Students need to be motivated to spend time practicing outside of class.

Homework is assigned daily and active participation in class conversations is essential and required. The course includes weekly quizzes, midterm test and final examinations. In class, various teaching methods are employed, including in-class discussion on Vietnamese and American subjects, role plays, recitations for aural comprehension, grammar exercises, and social activities with instructors.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews which are conducted by language instructors.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students are expected to:

- Achieve a solid foundation in conversational Vietnamese;
- Become well-versed in basic pronunciation and grammatical rules of Vietnamese;
- Learn to introduce themselves, sharing pertinent personal information about themselves with others;
- Meet their basic everyday needs in Vietnamese, such as ordering food, going shopping, using public transportation, asking directions, etc.;
- Speak elements of colloquial Vietnamese language (slang, expressions, etc.) used by ordinary native speakers;
- Be able to engage in real (casual) conversation with native speakers; Develop intercultural skills to communicate and develop friendships in Vietnamese language environments.

Course Requirements

This course includes daily quizzes and homework, weekly tests, and midterm and final examinations. Students are expected to complete 1 to 2 hours' preparation work or homework for every hour spent in class. Four hours are dedicated to each of 10 units in the textbook covered over the course of the term. Students have additional 10 hours of practicum or additional instruction on selected topics and 1 hour of weekly one-on-one tutorial. The faculty members will be available for those students who would like to have additional individualized times.

Proactive participation in class discussion is essential and required. Students also participate in out-of-class educational excursions. These practicums take full advantage of the local environment, requiring students to practice their skills outside the walls of the classroom, yet in a structured way with the support of the language instructions. Local volunteer students, who are living and studying in Ho Chi Minh City, will be introduced in the second week and they will be local language tutors for online participated students. Both students and local volunteers will practice speaking and listening skills around 5 hours in the last two weeks of the online language program.

Sample Course Topics

- Phonetics, Pronunciation and Intonation
- Introduction to the Vietnamese alphabets
- Basic sentence structure and word order
- Interrogative sentences
- Sentences with a verbal predicative, or an adjectival predicative
- Preposition construction
- The Vietnamese particles

Model Conversational Topics

- Greetings and introduction
- Personal information
- Family
- Food and drink
- Time, dates and number
- Ordering food at a restaurant
- Shopping and bargaining
- Asking the way, directions

- Taking a taxi, bus, or buying a ticket
- Apologies and responding to apologies
- Routine (activities at home)
- Feelings

Textbooks and Required Materials

Duong Van Thanh, Tran Thi Nguyen Thuy and Ho Ngoc Phuong Tram. 2014.

Basic Vietnamese language for communicative competencies and fieldwork. Internal Materials for SIT Study Abroad Vietnam

Supplementary Texts

Nguyen Van Hue et all. Editor. 2008. *Giao Trinh Tieng Viet Cho Nguoi Nuoc Ngoai. Tap 1 (VLS 1)* Ho Chi Minh National University Publisher.

Nguyen Viet Huong. 2001. *Thuc hanh Tieng Viet. Volume 1.* Hanoi National University Publisher.

Ngo, Binh, 2003. *Elementary Vietnamese.* Revised Edition. Tuttle Publishing: Boston

Doan, T.T. (2001). *Thuc hanh Tieng Viet.* Ha Noi: The Gioi Publishing House

Daily Class Schedule

Minimum of 3 online instructional hours each week with language instructors.

Before the actual online Classes, students are required to preview the recorded video clips on topic which is prepared by language teachers. Each topic will be run in 3-4 sessions that include listening, pronunciation and speaking and direct interact with language instructors. Students are encouraged to learn practice language on their own and with peers and other appropriate learning tools. Daily assignments on reading and writing will be given. After each topic, students will be given a task to practice.

Options for Online Class with Language Instructors

Option 1: Morning session from 8:00 – 10:00 AM, Eastern Time

Option 2: Evening session from 8:00 – 10:00 PM, Eastern Time

(Note; Time differences between US and Vietnam)

Classes are scheduled accordingly:

First Hour: Listening and Speaking

Half an Hour Grammar and comprehension

Last Half hour Exercises with the guidance from language instructors

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Instructors evaluate students' performance based on observation, written exercises, quizzes and exams given throughout the course. Final grades are assigned by the Academic Director in consultation with the language instructors on the basis of the instructors' evaluation, the students' own self-evaluation, and the Academic Director's observation of the students' participation in classes and their efforts to use the language outside of the classroom.

Oral Proficiency Interview

Final oral proficiency interviews are conducted toward the end of the semester to provide a measurement of students' overall linguistic progress. Thus, the course grade provides an assessment of students' performance in meeting the requirements.

Methods of Evaluation

Daily Class Participation (10%)

Students are encouraged to stay motivated, active, and maintain their involvement in class activities during the course. Students are evaluated based on their constant involvement and ability to engage in conversations on given topics, to memorize modeled vocabulary, phrases, and structures, to interact with language teachers using formulaic expressions. Attendance is mandatory; failure to attend class or repeated late arrival to class will impact the grade in the course. See Attendance section below for more details.

Daily Homework (25%)

Homework is given daily and it comprises drills and practiced exercise in the textbook. Students are expected to complete homework given after each lesson. There are a total of ten lessons over the language course.

Quizzes (25%)

The quizzes are pre-preparations for the two main tests in accordance with the reviews of practical language accumulated from real-life communicative situations through field trips. There are two main quizzes conducted on the second and the fourth week of 6 weeks course. Each quiz usually contains 5 written parts and lasts from 30 to 45 minutes.

Two Language Tests: Midterm Test (20%) and Final Test (20%)

The two main tests navigate students' concentration on both academic and real-life contexts. In addition to technical skills of language study, students are expected to develop cultural competence during the course. Therefore, the two main tests are reflection of students' performance and proficiency in academic and experiential aspects.

The two main tests include both written and oral parts. The written test lasts for 90 minutes and the oral test lasts between 10 and 15 minutes for each pair. Writing: 4 parts (Pronunciation; Vocabulary; Reading; and Writing); Oral: 2 parts (Independent talk and pair talk).

The final grade is determined as follows:

Daily class participation	10%
Daily homework	25%
Quizzes	25%
Midterm test	20%
Final test	20%

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory, and absences are penalized by reducing the language grade, except for illness cases, when the student is expected to provide a medical certificate. In addition, two repeated and unjustified late start of class are also counted as an absence and may impact the student's participation grade.

Grading Scale: The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-

67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
Below 64	F

Expectations and Policies

Class attendance is mandatory, and absences are penalized by reducing the language grade, except for illness cases, when the student is expected to provide a medical certificate. In addition, two repeated and unjustified delays are also counted as an absence and may impact the student's participation grade.

Show up prepared. Be on time, have your assignments completed and points in mind for clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.

Have assignments completed on schedule and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. Teachers are highly respected in Vietnam. Your polite and engaged behavior is expected.

Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Respect differences of opinion (classmates', teachers'). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

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