

Advanced Vietnamese

VIET-3003-3503 (3 credits)

Vietnam: Traditional Medicine and Community Health

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

Course Description

This course is designed for students who have already achieved an intermediate competence in Vietnamese and are ready to begin to engage with materials meant for a native audience. Students are thus enabled to enrich all aspects of their experience abroad by functioning in the host language during field methods exercises, and when interacting with homestay families and local contacts. Students in this course attempt to move beyond simple discussions to more complex and nuanced interactions. Speaking practice sessions are less structured than those of the lower-level classes and focus on the spontaneous production of lengthier sentences. Writing practice targets structured paragraph production, and reading practice introduces texts meant for native speakers.

Instruction consists of 40 hours of formal classes spread over a six-week period in Ho Chi Minh City. Various teaching methods are employed, including in-class discussions on Vietnamese and American subjects, recitations for aural comprehension, and grammar exercises. Homework is assigned daily. Students have opportunities to practice with one language tutor and local student volunteers every week, at least two hours per week. Role-plays and social activities with the instructors are also used as opportunities for learning.

An additional 10 hours of instruction and guided field practice are scheduled during excursions to the Mekong Delta and through the homestay period. These practicum classes take full advantage of the local environment, requiring students to practice their skills with native speakers. Some practicum assignments require students to interview locals about topics of particular interests. Students are then asked to report on excursion assignments upon returning to the classroom in Ho Chi Minh City.

Classes and field-based language activities are taught by qualified, native-speaking language teachers at University of Economics and Vietnam-American Association in Ho Chi Minh City. Students are placed into the appropriate level based on in-country estimated oral proficiency interviews and reading/written tests. By strengthening students' knowledge of upper-level Vietnamese sentence patterns and vocabulary, focusing on specific topics of interest to the students and providing the students necessary skills to communicate their opinions about the topics effectively, students are able to apply their language skills during educational excursions.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and reading/written tests conducted during orientation in Vietnam.

Guided self-instruction under the supervision of host country language instructors is available for students who place above the language levels offered. Final transcripts indicate the grade for the language course.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Gain a basic foundation in Vietnamese linguistics;
- Further their knowledge of the factors influencing contemporary Vietnamese society;
- Read and discuss glossed selections from local newspapers and magazines, and modified literary excerpts;
- Practice engaging in fluid conversations with native speakers, expressing their viewpoints with relative accuracy and description;
- Begin to move away from short conversational expression, and towards the production of longer, more complex sentences about academic topics.

Course Requirements

This course includes daily quizzes and homework, weekly tests, and midterm and final examinations. Students are expected to complete one to two 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 an additional ten hours of practicum or additional instruction on selected topics and one hour of weekly one-on-one tutorial.

Reinforcement exercises, both oral and written, are assigned. On average, students are required to complete at least one hour of homework daily. Class attendance is also required; preparation and participation are highly emphasized.

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.

Sample Course Topics

Approximately six hours is dedicated to each of seven topics. Students read various newspaper articles per unit and watch Vietnamese films. Lesson topics include:

- Dialects
- Population demographic and challenges
- Vietnamese folklore
- Education in Vietnam
- Gender and families
- Religion and belief
- Economics

Model Conversational, Reading and Writing Topics

- Describing familial relationships and making friends
- Describing the differences and similarity
- Making plans
- Commanding
- Talking about activities
- Talking about traveling
- How to avoid misunderstanding communicate efficiently with people
- Admissions of error
- Exchanging viewpoints
- Telling a story
- Talking about entertainment, festivals, costumes, cooking, and clothes
- Describing feelings
- Using respect words
- Writing simple essays on specific selected topics

Textbooks and Required Materials

Nguyen Van Hue et all. Editor. 2008. *Giao Trinh Tieng Viet Cho Nguoi Nuoc Ngoai. Tap 4 (VLS 4)*. Ho Chi Minh National University Publisher.

Nguyen Viet Huong. 2001. *Thuc hanh Tieng Viet. Level D*. Hanoi National University Publisher.

Collections of advanced readings. Bai Doc Tieng Viet Nang Cao.2004. Hanoi National University Publisher.

Various articles, video clips, and web sources

Daily Class Schedule (minimum of 2.5 contact hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, except during excursions):

Classes are scheduled accordingly:

9:00-10:00: Listening and Speaking

10:00-10:30: Grammar and comprehension

10:30-11:30: Exercises on reading and writing

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 instructor on the basis of the instructor's evaluation, the student's own self-evaluation, and the Academic Director's observation of the student's 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 a variety of classroom and weekly outdoor activities during the course. They are expected to complete 80%-90% of the total work including 4 weekly outdoor activities. 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 (20%)

Students are expected to do weekly readings and writings following the three main focuses: narrative, descriptive, and persuasive (argumentative) in well-organized paragraphs. At this level, the speed is another goal for daily homework. Students are encouraged to increase the speed of reading, being able to comprehend main ideas and supporting detail of the readings. The completion of 80% to 90% of 6 readings and 6 writings is required to maintain constant progress.

Field Trip Assignments (20%)

Field trip assignments are designed to advance speaking skills to accumulate experience in the field. There are 2 assignments (One in Cu Chi and One in Mekong Delta). Students can choose the activities with topics given by lecturers or suggest new ones. During the field trips, students are accessible to some resources in the field to collect information for the assignments. Students are expected to use the resources effectively in efficient time. After each field trip, students can check up with lecturers in term of linguistic issues and other necessary preparation to present information. Students present information in front of a small group of Vietnamese Language Volunteers and their peers. Lecturers give final feedbacks.

Two Language Tests: First Test (25%) and Second Test (25%):

The two main tests navigate students' concentration on both academic and real-life contexts. These two tests include familiar and unfamiliar topics in reading and speaking skills. The tests are effective tools to check if students have made improvements on their weaknesses noted from homework, field trip assignments and regular feedbacks of lecturers. In addition to technical skills of language study, students are expected to develop cultural competence during the course. Therefore, the two main tests are reflections 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 student.

The final grade is determined as follows:

Daily class participation	10%
Daily homework	20%
Field Trip Assignments	20%
First test	25%
Second test	25%

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

Show up prepared. Be on time and have your homework completed as instructed. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, educational excursions, assignments and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. An absent student is responsible for contacting the instructor, the tutor, and/or fellow students to be prepared for the assignments s/he missed and the ones scheduled for the next class.

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