

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
VIETNAMESE 115/515  
ELEMENTARY VIETNAMESE  
Yale University  
Fall 2006 to Spring 2007

Instructor: Quang Phu Van

Time: Monday to Friday, 9:30 AM -10:20 AM

Room: TBA

Office Hours: Monday, 1:00-2:00, 314 Luce Hall, and by appointments

Telephone: 432-5097, e-mail: [quang.van@yale.edu](mailto:quang.van@yale.edu)

### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

The objective of this course is to help students acquire a basic working ability in Vietnamese 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. However, approaches and activities are varied, appealing to different learning strategies. Students practice real communication using materials that include newspaper and magazine articles, simple songs and poems, games, maps, audio tapes, videos, books, pictures, etc. Each lesson in the textbook includes dialogue, vocabulary, grammar practice and development, task-based activities, narratives and situation dialogues to increase comprehension, and exercises to help students develop reading and writing skills. Participation is needed. No previous knowledge of or experience with Vietnamese language is required.

### **TEXTBOOK & MATERIAL REQUIRED:**

1-*Let's Speak Vietnamese* by Le Pham Thuy Kim (available online this year)

2-*Activities Manual* by Le Pham Thuy-Kim (Yale Bookstore)

### **GOALS OF THE COURSE**

#### **LISTENING**

Students develop listening skill at a simple level. Listening activities are aided by visual materials, e.g. pictures, diagrams, CD-ROM's, audiotapes, and videos. They learn to detect distinctive consonants, vowel sounds and tones. At the end of the course, students can comprehend familiar sentence patterns and vocabulary spoken at a slow speed by a native speaker.

**ORAL SKILLS** Students learn individual sounds, places and manners of articulation, and have a fair command of Vietnamese single and combined consonants and vowels. Students develop speaking skills at a simple level, using basic vocabulary to perform simple tasks such as asking for directions, dates and times, greetings, ordering foods, and so on. The oral activities include regular work on pronunciation and tones. Students are encouraged to practice, use, and express what they learn. Singing, reciting poems, chanting, role-playing, games, and other task-based activities in Vietnamese are meant to help students improve their speaking skills. By the end of the course, students should be able to understand simple questions and answers, simple statements, and simple face-to-face conversations in Vietnamese. They will have the ability to speak in Vietnamese using basic sentence patterns in simple conversations about everyday activities and concrete objects.

**READING** Students improve their reading ability by developing their vocabulary, grammar, and meaning-based knowledge. Students read simplified authentic and semi-authentic texts appropriate to their level such as greeting cards, bus schedules, maps, personal ads, and short newspaper articles, and other types of texts. Students learn to identify the main points of a simple reading passage, some specific information, and begin building a foundation of vocabulary.

**WRITING AND GRAMMAR** Frequent writing practice ranges from one sentence to half-a-page paragraph. Students learn basic grammar that appears in the dialogues and the reading texts and grasp the basic structure of Vietnamese sentences. Emphasis will be placed on using appropriate forms of address and reference, common kinship terms, and classifiers. In addition, students begin to use the points covered in the course and to recognize some of the mistakes that are common in their own writing and to correct these errors. Practice is oral as well as written (dictation, drills, role-playing, and other writing activities).

**SOCIETY AND CULTURE** Aspects of Vietnamese society and culture are reflected in the course materials and students will occasionally learn about common life experiences of Vietnamese people such as values, norms, routines, and facts.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1-Class attendance and participation	10%
2-Homework and assignments	20%
3-Quizzes (10-14)	20%
4-Mid-term exams (1)	20%
5-Final Exam	30%

-----  
100%

Please note:

1-Absence from a quiz or a test will be excused only if students provide written proof of the reason for the absence. The instructor is not required to give make-up.

2-Homework and assignments have to be turned in on time.

3-Faithful attendance and punctuality are required.

4-You will have to attend at least two mandatory conferences in my office during the term. We will meet individually to talk about your progress and concerns one-on-one.