UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Asian Languages and Literatures
Hmong Language Program

Bee Vang-Moua
Folwell Hall RM 230A
612-624-2304
bvang@umn.edu
www.all.umn.edu/hmong_language

ALL 3772 (4 Credits) Hmong Language and Culture Immersion in China
Summer 2018

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is open to all students interested in Hmong language and culture. The course will focus on
the study of Hmong language and culture in the trans-historical context of China. Students will gain a
deeper understanding of the intricate differences within the Hmong linguistic and cultural diaspora
through a comparative approach. They will examine the complexity of Hmong dialects and regional
cultural shifts. Instructors will work with all student levels, and instruction is oriented towards helping
students learn to use the language effectively. All aspects of linguistic performance - speaking, reading,
writing and listening - will be addressed. This course will support student learning to:

1. Learn about the differences among Hmong reading and writing systems in China, compared to
   Hmong American texts.
2. Learn important Hmong terminology, used in both formal and informal contexts such as in
everyday social settings, and in music, art, and songs.
3. Learn the Hmong historical and cultural roots in different regions of China and the dialects
   associated with various regions.
4. Discover the range of social norms, fashion, art, and customs of the Hmong in China, with a
   comparative eye toward the Hmong in the US.
5. Apply learned Hmong to connect with students and teachers abroad.

LIBERAL EDUCATION
This class satisfies the Global Perspectives theme of the Liberal Education requirement.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Texts will be provided by instructor.

ATTENDANCE
Learning a language requires that you are present at all times and participate to your utmost ability.
Therefore, attendance and participation comprise a significant part of your grade. Make sure you check
in with the instructor if you are late and attendance has already been taken. Active participation ensures
successful learning outcomes. Students will be expected to participate in all activities. Any religious or
health concerns should be immediately shared with the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS
- Daily journal entries (250 words minimum)
- Audio/video logs (3 observations, totaling of 1-5 minutes)
• Final Group Presentation
• Weekly Quizzes on Language and Culture Competency

ACCOMODATIONS
Any student needing accommodations for any part of the class should talk to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. All students will have equal access to lessons and learning.

GRADING
Students are expected to participate actively in the classroom and ask questions when students are unclear about anything. To do well in class, students are expected to know all materials presented in class for quizzes and exams. Grading for the semester is divided as follows:

20% Attendance/Participation
20% Final Group Presentations
20% Journal Entries
20% Audio/Video Logs
20% Quizzes

Percentage Brackets:
95% - 100% A  90% - 94% A-  88% - 89% B+  85% - 87% B
80% - 84% B-  78% - 79% C+  75% - 77% C  70% - 74% C-
68% - 69% D+  65% - 67% D  60% - 64% D-  00% - 59% F

Tentative Schedule

I. Orientation in Kunming. (Week 1: 7/9-7/12)
1. Kunming University
   Objectives: Students will meet with the on-site Professor and learn about Hmong language and culture in the Yunnan area, specific to Western Hmong dialects used in the United States.
   Assignments: Daily journal, Reading and Writing Practice

2. Yunnan Nationalities Village
   Objectives: During this visit students will learn about the many nationalities of Yunnan Province and learn about how Hmong is influenced and directly impacts local culture. Students will study the concept of Diaspora in the Hmong community and how that affects language, clothing, and culture overall.
   Assignments: Daily journal, Audio/video entry, Worksheet

Assessment: Friday Quiz

Explore!
Explore Kunming City. Get to know the local community and culture.

II. Dialect Study. (Week 2: 7/16-7/20)
1. Kunming University
Objectives: Students will learn about the many dialects of the Hmong/Miao in China. Students will observe with the Western Dialects and further study the paradigm shifts of the White Hmong and Green Hmong dialects, amongst the other 7 Yunnan Hmong dialects.
Assignments: Daily journal, Reading and Discussion

2. Yunnan Nationalities Museum
   Objectives: During this visit students will apply and analyze in-class readings and discussions to museum findings.
   Assignments: Daily journal, Audio/video entry, Worksheet

3. Xiaoshuijing Miao Village
   Objectives: During this visit students will learn about the local dialect of the village and village life in a fast growing metropolitan city.
   Assignments: Daily journal, Audio/video entry

Assessment: Friday Quiz

Explore!

Explore the neighboring areas of Kunming on a drive down to Kaihua City. Explore the Rocky Forest as well as legends and cultural significance of these sites.

III. Hmong Culture, Art and Fashion. (Week 3: 7/23-7/27)
1. Hmong Arts and Embroidery Market
   Objectives: Students will learn about Hmong in the marketplace, in business - and how fashion and trends of the Hmong are taking shape to influence the economy.
   Assignments: Daily journal, Audio/video entry

2. Xihua Mountain
   Objectives: Students will visit Xihua Mountain to gain a deeper understanding of the rapid growth this sprawling agricultural town has undergone in the last 10 years alone.
   Assignments: Daily journal, Audio/video entry, Readings

3. Government Square & Sculptures Garden
   Objectives: During this visit students will learn about the immersion of Hmong community and Hmong culture on local government.
   Assignments: Daily journal, Audio/video entry

4. Meeting of Hmong University Students in Kaihua
   Objectives: During this visit students will have dialogues with Hmong Chinese university students and immerse in cultural exchange.
   Assignments: Daily journal, Audio/video entry

5. Vue Village & Hmong Museum
   Objectives: During this visit students will learn about the collaborative work between US Hmong and Chinese Hmong. Students will observe Chinese Hmong art and also have the opportunity to showcase learned Hmong performances.
   Assignments: Daily journal, Audio/video entry

Assessment: Friday Quiz
**Explore!**
Explore the city of Kaihua through visiting Tangzizhai Village and the Hmong arts markets. Immerse in discussions of fashion, and how the diaspora of the Hmong have influenced not only dialects, but designs, trends, and marketplace.

**IV. Homestay Immersion. (Week 4: 7/30-8/3)**
1. Moua Village (Zos Hav Ntev)
   - **Objectives:** Students will meet host families and learn about village life. Students will apply language and cultural learning with Hmong families in different aspects of daily life.
   - **Assignments:** Daily journal, Audio/video entry

2. Kunming
   - **Objectives:** Students will return to Kunming for Wrap-Up session and debrief.
   - **Assignments:** Final Group Presentation & Discussion

**Explore!**
Last day guided exploration of Kunming City: Visit Hmong American Merchants and residents currently living/working in Kunming. Pack up in preparation for next day flight.