

Syllabus: SUMMER 2008 INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM FOR *ZOMI STUDENT AND YOUTH ORGANIZATION*

Location: Maesot, Thailand **Start Date:** May 25, 2008 **End Date:** August 14, 2008 (12 Weeks Total)

Class Days: Monday through Thursday (4 Days Per Week) **Class Times:** 9-11AM, 1-3PM (4 Hours Per Day)

Instructor: Mr. Julian Tyler Lee, MA student in international affairs program at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA (Expected graduation: May 2009) **Instructor's E-mail Address:** omniscientfool@yahoo.com

Class Summary: The Burma Volunteer Program (Thailand) has arranged for three months of intensive English learning for the Zomi Student and Youth Organization for the summer of 2008. This class will emphasize the use of the English for communication, although it is hoped that much other knowledge will also be gained. The topics and language skills covered will be decided by the instructor and students according to interests and abilities on a weekly basis (although units will usually not be cohesive), and the primary focus will be placed on using correct grammar in speaking and writing.

Structure, Materials, and Grading: An "hour" of class time will actually be between 45 to 50 minutes, allowing for a 10 to 15 minute break between class "hours". Class materials will include textbooks provided by the "Curriculum Project" NGO and the instructor, as well as audiovisual materials (such as music and movies) and in-class handouts of printed material. Students will be expected to take notes in class (bring a pen and notebook) to write down new material covered only on the whiteboard or in class lectures. As this is above all a chance to practice using English to communicate, extensive class participation--asking and answering questions--is expected from each student, and efforts will be made that each student will be given several opportunities to contribute to class activities and discussion. This element will be especially important due to the small class size; any missed work will be expected to be "made up" so that each student remains current in the sequence of class content.

Although this class is largely voluntary, on both the students' and instructor's parts, learning assessments and grades will be given regularly throughout the summer. All tests and assignments will be graded on a scale of 100 and will count toward the final grade. The final score for each student will be given as a percentage out of a possible 100%, with a score about 90 being "excellent", above 80 being "great", above 70 being "good", above 60 being "okay", above 50 being "passable/satisfactory", and below 50 being "unsatisfactory".

As if learning English and getting a good score were not enough incentive, the top three students will receive a nice award or "prize" to be determined by the students and the instructor. All students receiving a score of "passable/satisfactory" or above will receive a certificate of achievement at the end of the course. It is fully expected that all students will "pass".

Student work will be graded proportionally according to the following criteria, with the number in parentheses () being the number of times such a measure will be recorded. Note that the pretest and and post-test are the same but that the pretest will not count toward the final grade. Tests (3): 30%; Assignments (2): 20%; Dictations (4): 20%; Quizzes (9): 10%; Post-Test (1): 10%; Attendance: 10%. Students' attendance scores will be calculated by the number of times each student misses class. Each absence (to a 2-hour session) will count as .5% against the attendance grade.

Each class will begin with a dictation, in which the students will listen to the instructor reciting two sentences, three times each, and writing down as best they can what has been said. The vast majority of these will only be for "practice", however there will be four "test" dictations throughout the summer which will be factored into the final grade. These will be announced at least one day in advance. All dictations will cover important vocabulary and grammar patterns from the previous day's lesson. It is hoped that the remainder of each class will be more amusing and fun, but in the instructor's language-learning experience, there is no better or more systematic way to hold students accountable for retaining each lesson's content.

The three tests will each consist of an oral and written half, each worth 50 points. Questions for the oral exam will be provided in advance and prepared for as a group. The third oral exam will be conducted with a partner; others will be solo.

Tentative, Important Dates: Having laid out the structure of the course, the dates for learning assessments such as tests can be estimated. Mondays will generally be heavily grammar-based, Tuesdays will involve textbook lessons, and efforts will be made to have an audiovisual-centered lesson on Wednesdays. Quizzes worth ten points each will generally be given on Thursdays except for the three weeks which have tests. Tests will also be given on Thursdays. A review game (with fabulous prizes) will precede all tests.

(Monday) May 25th: First day of class June 19th: Test 1 (Monday) July 7th: Assignment 1 due July 17th: Test 2
(Monday) August 4th: Assignment 2 due (Tuesday) August 12th: Test 3 August 14th: Post-test (last day of class)