

University of Wisconsin -  
Madison

South Asian Summer Language  
Institute 2011

Elementary Sinhala

Instructor: Bandara Herath

[mph82@cornell.edu](mailto:mph82@cornell.edu)

### **I. Course Overview:**

Elementary Sinhala has two-semester program sequence. The course emphasizes the individual learning styles and preferences. All the aspects of language: speaking, reading, writing and listening would be given equal consideration. Using essentially a communicative-interactive teaching methodology, supplemented with appropriate grammatical details, the students are, systematically and incrementally, introduced to materials that enable them to acquire cultural and linguistic literacy about Sri Lanka. At the end of the program students are expected to have complete mastery over the Sinhala script, so they can read and write Sinhala efficiently. They are expected to be able to carry on basic conversation in Sinhala with native speakers, displaying a fair command of the contextually appropriate linguistic articulations of different speech acts in Sinhala

### **2. Class Materials: Required Text Book:**

- 1) Beginning Colloquial Sinhala: An Introductory Sinhala Curriculum by Theresa McGarry and Liyanage Amarakeerthi.  
<http://www.einaudi.cornell.edu/southasia/publications/sinhala>
- 2) Sinhala Script Workbook: Reading and Writing with the Sinhala Alphabet by Bandara Herath  
<http://www.einaudi.cornell.edu/SouthAsia/publications/>
- 3) English Sinhala Dictionary by Bandara Herath
- 4) Reading materials to be provided, Handouts, Audio and video/ Sinhala movies/ Tele dramas will be available online / provide by the instructor.

### **3. Quizzes:** There will be two types of quizzes:

1. Weekly: Weekly quizzes are part of the final grading. (last day of the week)
2. Short quizzes: The purpose of these short quizzes is to get a regular feedback on your daily achievement of language skills. The duration would be 5-10 minutes.

### **4. Examinations:** The objective of this is to evaluate the acquisition of language in different skill areas.

**Exam Format: Oral** – Conversation / **oral** presentation / achievement of oral skills during the semester. **Written:** Covers all the grammar points and

also includes short paragraph writing. **Final** examination will be held in the finals week of the program. Final examination will be cumulative that is it will cover the syllabus from day one till the instruction ends. It will have an oral and written part.

#### **5. One on One Interview:**

Students have to sign for one on one interview with the instructor once in a week. Interviews focus on the special needs of the students and for the revision of the previous lessons. Students can use this opportunity to work more on writing skills and speaking skills.

#### **6. Home work assignments:**

Homework will be assigned regularly and the due date will vary depending on the length of the home-assignment. These assignments will help you to become thorough with the material taught in the class and also experiment with the language by yourself.

#### **7. Evaluation:**

Quizzes (Written, oral)	20%
Class participation	10%
Home work	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100

#### **8. Course Calendar:**

The calendar is tentative and it may be changed according to the needs of the class and students. (Weekly schedule will be give on Monday)

Bandara Herath

Cornell University Ithaca New York.