



Serbian I

SERB 1003 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Serbia, Bosnia, and Kosovo: Peace and Conflict Studies in the Balkans

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

Course Objectives

- To gain beginners proficiency in spoken Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian
- To develop basic listening, comprehension, and communication skills
- To expose students to Latin and Cyrillic orthographies and basic regional variations of Croatian, Serbian, and Bosnian
- To use the language in everyday situations, as well as within the context of the demands of the Independent Study Project

Grammatical Content

- Alphabets: Latin and Cyrillic
- Personal and possessive pronouns
- Gender (masculine, feminine, neuter)
- Present tense
- Cases (basic concept and role of the case system in a language)
- Prepositions (relation between preposition and case)
- Past tense of regular and some irregular verbs
- Future tense
- Adjectives, adverbs
- Numerals

Topics:

- Social expressions (Excuse me, I am sorry...) / Everyday phrases and greetings
- Introducing yourself / family / friends
- Numbers / prices / years / time / days of the week / months

- Food and drinks (at the market / shop / restaurant)
- Seasons / weather
- Colors / animals / countries
- Describing everyday activities
- Local songs / proverbs / customs

Course Schedule

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Week 1:

Introduction: Slavic languages as part of Indo-European language family; Cyril and Methodius mission to the Slavs (9th century); B/H/S in Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empire; the history of standardization of the language in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia, Vienna Literary Agreement (1850) and the creation of Serbo-Croatian language; discuss socio-linguistic questions of the region of the former Yugoslavia.

Greetings and basic phrases – get ready to meet your homestay families.

Week 2:

Writing systems – Latin and Cyrillic alphabets

Pronunciation, reading and transcription

Greetings and basic phrases - revision; useful everyday expressions

Numbers (introduction)

The verb “to be”, personal pronouns

Week 3:

Gender (introduction)

Possessive pronouns

Present tense

Introducing yourself (Where do I come from, How old am I, Where do I live, What do I study etc.)

Asking basic questions using question words (when, where, who, how much...)

Preparation for the midterm exam

Week 4:

Midterm written exam

Making sentences using modal verbs: likes and dislikes, possibility, obligation (I like to.../I do not like to...; I have to...)

Food and drink

Eating out (restaurants & cafes)

Days of the week, months of the year, seasons

Week 5: BiH excursion

Writing a short diary while on excursion

Week 6:

Past tense – introduction, practice
Plural of the nouns and adjectives

Week 7:

Future tense
Telling time

Week 8: Kosovo excursion

Writing a diary while on excursion

Week 9:

Traditional proverbs
General revision and preparation for the exams

Week 10:

Final written exam and first oral exam

Suggesting readings of B/H/S translated literature while on ISP (and in the general future ☺)

Weeks 11-14: ISP

Week 15:

Second oral exam

Course Requirements

Students are required to attend the course regularly, to participate in classroom activities and discussions, and to complete all homework.

Student Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Student Assessment

Students receive feedback from the instructor throughout the course. The language instructor and the Academic Director assign final grades jointly. Apart from Midterm and Final exams, students' vocabulary will be quizzed every week. Evaluation is a reflection of the student's proficiency, participation, engagement, and progress through the weeks of language instruction and during the remaining weeks of the course.

Requirements and expectations of students for successful completion of the course include:

Weekly vocabulary quizzes	20%
Midterm written exam	20%
Final written exam	25%
Before ISP and post ISP oral exams	25%
In class activities, homework, participation	10%

Grading Scales and Criteria

Grades are given both fairly and rigorously and in accordance with the system below. They will reflect a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, the ability to take into account and assimilate the Academic Director's and the teachers' advice in assessing the work done. An "A" letter grade reflects exceptional work, perfect combination of academic competences and personal research and engagement. In terms of class participation, an "A"

grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all language class activities. A “B” letter grade reflects serious and methodical work as well as a substantial effort at achieving excellence in language. A “C” letter grade shows that work meets the requirements but needs more in-depth reflection and personal involvement. A “D” letter grade is insufficient and clearly reflects lack of work or serious deficiencies.

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

Academic Policies: SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the **SIT Study Abroad Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.