



## **Serbian II**

SERB 2003 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

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

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

### **Course Objectives**

- To gain considerable proficiency in spoken Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian
- To develop solid listening, comprehension, and communication skills
- To use the language effectively in everyday situations, as well as within the context of the demands of the Independent Study Project

### **Grammatical Content**

- Present, past and future tense – repetition and expansion
- Noun and adjectives declension, both singular and plural
- Personal pronouns declension, short and long form
- Imperative mood
- Comparison of adjectives and adverbs
- Agreement of nouns with cardinal numbers and with quantifiers
- Aspect of verbs (general concept of aspect and its role in language)

### **Topics:**

- Describing everyday activities in more complex language
- Presenting a person, a book, or a movie in details
- Understanding simple texts (e.g. news or short stories written in standard language)
- Expressing likes and dislikes, expressing personal opinion on simple topics
- Writing a dictated text, both in Latin and Cyrillic alphabet
- Local songs, proverbs, customs

### **Course Schedule**

\*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.

**Week 1:**

Introduction: Slavic languages as part of Indo-European language family; Cyril and Methodius mission to the Slavs (9<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Cyrilic script – comprehensive reading of longer text

Text about *Skadarlija* (bohemian street in Belgrade) and Kafana culture

Discussion topic: spending free time, places where young people gather in your country

Grammar: prepositions and declinations system – practice

**Week 3:**

Text about fashion through time

Discussion topic: dressing codes in different countries

Grammar: verbs and three main tenses in B/H/S

Preparation for the midterm exam

**Week 4:**

Midterm written exam

Text about eating healthy

Discussion topic: cooking and eating habits in different countries

Grammar: agreement of nouns with cardinal numbers and with quantifiers; imperative

**Week 5: BiH excursion**

Writing a diary while on excursion

**Week 6:**

Discussion topic: impressions from Bosnia

Exercise in translation from B/H/S to English; most important orthography rules

Grammar: verbal aspect (basic concept and translating English tenses using verbs of different aspect)

**Week 7:**

Phrases and proverbs, equivalent proverbs in English language.

**Week 8: Kosovo excursion**

Writing a diary while on excursion

**Week 9:**

Discussion topic: impressions from Kosovo

Appropriate language means for writing a formal letter of complaint

Discussion topic: what is polite in different cultures?  
Grammar: prepositions and cases they require; comparison of adjectives

**Week 10:**

Discussion topic: overall impressions from the Balkans and plans for ISP  
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 participate in classroom activities and discussions, and to complete all homework.

**Student Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

Student Assessment

Students receive feedback from the instructors throughout the course. The language instructor and the Academic Director assign final grades jointly. There will be one Midterm written exam and one Final written exam, as well as two oral exams – one before the ISP and one after it. 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](mailto: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>.