

Intermediate Vietnamese

VIET 2003 – 2503 Online Course

(3 Credits)

Vietnam: Intensive Vietnamese Language

This syllabus is representative of a typical term. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from term to term.

Course Description

This Online course is designed for students who have already achieved a basic foundation in Vietnamese and aim to improve general competence, particularly in oral expression and listening comprehension. The objectives of this course are to strengthen students' knowledge of Vietnamese grammar, sentence patterns and vocabulary, contributing to develop the foundation necessary to further language study. Emphasis is placed on expanding skills—i.e., expression of more complex ideas, successful use of language appropriate to specific social situations, expanding vocabulary beyond simple day-to-day issues and practice comprised of sample conversations, skills, free discussions and presentations. In addition, reading and simple writing are also covered, and students are required to produce structured essays and read short passages for comprehension.

This three week Intermediate Online course is oriented to different topics designed to improve your language skills and enrich your cultural perspectives. You will learn through use of semi-authentic and authentic materials, sources, and native environment - Vietnamese newspaper articles, movie extracts, folktales and legends, idiomatic sayings, and more. The main segments of the curriculum are reading and listening comprehension, discussion and oral presentation. Providing you with a wide range of topical vocabulary and grammar, your communication skills in Vietnamese will be strengthened. You also start to practice writing essays.

To complete the Online course successfully, there are some requirements, such as students will learn directly with Vietnamese Language Instructors during required online class time, students are not only expected to participate actively in in-class discussions, but also to spend time practicing and doing homework outside the class. Motivation is needed to retain content and improve.

The course includes weekly quizzes, a midterm test and a final test. In class, various teaching methods are employed, including in-class discussion on Vietnamese and American subjects, role plays, recitations for aural comprehension, grammar exercises, and social activities with instructors. Students are encouraged to apply their language skills during the January Term course in Vietnam.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews conducted during orientation in Vietnam.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students are expected to:

- Develop communication skills in oral and written Vietnamese, building a foundation for extensive study through formal instruction and cultural immersion;
- Attain intermediate-level skills to comprehend, use and discuss authentic materials (Vietnamese news briefs, legends and folktales, idiomatic sayings, etc.);
- Deepen understanding of Vietnamese grammar, produce longer, multi-clause sentences;
- Describe their likes and dislikes, plans and opinions;
- Function in daily Vietnamese society with confidence and relative ease;
- Use language in a culturally appropriate manner.

Course Requirements

This Online course includes daily quizzes and homework, weekly tests, and midterm and final examinations. Students are expected to complete 1 to 2 hours of preparation work or homework for every hour spent in class. Four hours are dedicated to each of 10 units in the textbook covered over the course of the term. Students have additional 10 hours of practicum or additional instruction on selected topics and 1 hour of weekly one-on-one tutorial. The faculty members will be available for those students who would like to have additional individualized times.

Class practice includes information and opinion formats as well as role plays with communicative activities comprising task-based partner and group work. Students are responsible for memorizing vocabulary and reviewing grammar patterns before class in order to reserve valuable class time for hands-on practice.

Proactive participation in class discussion is essential and required. Opportunities to share your understanding about Vietnamese life, culture, traditions are frequently introduced during the courses. Students can partake in more complex conversations that allow you to demonstrate your improved speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Local volunteer students, who are living and studying in Ho Chi Minh City, will be introduced in the first week and they will be local language tutors for online participated students. Both students and local volunteers will practice speaking and listening skills on selected topics around 5 hours during the online language program. The topics might focus on the themes of the week suggested by language instructors and topics might be chosen by participants.

Sample Course Topics

- The progressive, the continuous and the forfeit aspect of an action
- Vietnamese verb tenses
- Actions as past experiences
- Sentences with a predicate verb taking two objects
- Sentences with a nominal predicate
- Position of the adverbs
- Reduplication of verbs
- Comparative sentences
- The aspect particles

Model Conversational Topics

- Finding hotel rooms
- Going to see a doctor
- Making an appointment
- Bargaining
- Phone conversation
- Travel

- Entertainment
- Talking about interests and hobbies
- Making an invitation
- Describing people
- Describing personalities
- Studying
- Making comparisons

Textbooks and Required Materials

Nguyen Minh Thuyet. 2005. *Tieng Viet Vui. Quyen 2*. Vietnam Education Publishing House Limited Company.

Supplementary Texts

Thuc hanh Tieng Viet. Level B. 2001. *The Gioi* Publishing House.

Bai Doc Tieng Viet Nang Cao. 2004. Hanoi National University Publisher.

Various articles, video clips, and web sources.

Daily Class Schedule

Minimum of 1.30 – 2:00 hours every weekday with language instructors via Online Classes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Before the actual Online Classes, students are required to preview the recorded video clips on topic which is prepared by language teachers. Each topic will be run in 3-4 sessions that include listening, pronunciation and speaking and direct interact with language instructors. Student are encouraged to learn practice language on their own and with peers and other appropriate learning tools. Daily assignments on reading and writing will be given. After each topic, students will be given a task to practice.

Options for Online Class with Language Instructors

Option 1: Morning session from 8:00 – 10:00 AM, Eastern Time

Option 2: Evening session from 8:00 – 10:00 PM, Eastern Time

(Note: Time differences between US and Vietnam)

Classes are scheduled accordingly

First Hour: Listening and Speaking

Half an Hour Grammar and comprehension

Last Half hour Exercises with the guidance from language instructors

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Instructors evaluate students' performance based on observation, written exercises, quizzes, presentation, and exams given throughout the course. Final grades are assigned by the academic director in consultation with the language instructors on the basis of the instructors' evaluation, the students' own self-evaluation, and the academic director's observation of the students' participation in classes and their efforts to use the language outside of the classroom.

Oral Proficiency Interview

Final oral proficiency interviews are conducted toward the end of the semester to provide a measurement of students' overall linguistic progress. Thus, the course grade provides an assessment of students' performance in meeting the requirements.

Methods of Evaluation

Daily Class Participation (10%)

Students are evaluated based on their constant involvement in both classroom and out-door activities. They are expected to complete homework after each lesson.

Daily Homework (15%)

Daily homework aims to sharpen the ability to use compound and complex structures, abstract vocabulary, to apply tones rules to limit spelling mistakes, to understand word formations (sino-Vietnamese) and their differences in meaning. Students are expected to do weekly readings and critical writings with length and difficulty extending after each week.

The completion of 6 readings and 6 short critical writings is required to maintain constant progress.

Presentation (15%)

Students are expected to complete a 10-minute presentation about one of the assigned topics. Previous presentations are provided for reference.

Weekly Quizzes (20%)

Quizzes are pre-step to prepare for the two main tests. It finalizes the weekly progress students have made in term of vocabulary and structure use, cultural understanding, correction of tones in spelling, and application of reading skill. It is a tool to test the effectiveness of regular homework.

There are two main quizzes during the courses. Each quiz lasts from 30 to 45 minutes

Two Tests: Midterm Test (20%) and Final Test (20%)

The two main tests navigate students' concentration on both academic and real-life contexts. In addition to technical skills of language study, students are expected to develop cultural competence during the course. Therefore, the two main tests are reflection of students' performance and proficiency in academic and experiential aspects.

The two main tests include both written and oral. The written test lasts for 60 minutes and the oral test lasts between 10 and 15 minutes for each student.

1. Writing: 4 parts (Pronunciation; Vocabulary; Reading and Writing)
2. Oral: 2 parts (Independent talk and Pair talk)

The final grade is determined as follows:

Daily class participation	10%
Daily homework	15%
Presentation	15%
Quizzes	20%
First test	20%
Second test	20%

Grading Scale: 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

Expectations and Policies

Class attendance is mandatory, and absences are penalized by reducing the language grade, except for illness cases, when the student is expected to provide a medical certificate. In addition, two repeated and unjustified delays are also counted as an absence and may impact the student's participation grade.

Show up prepared. Be on time, have your assignments completed and points in mind for clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.

Have assignments completed on schedule and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. Teachers are highly respected in Vietnam. Your polite and engaged behavior is expected.

Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Respect differences of opinion (classmates', teachers'). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the program dossier given to you at orientation.

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