

## Intermediate Vietnamese

VIET 2003-2503 J-Term

(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 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.

Instruction consists of 45 hours of formal classroom hours spread over a 3-week period in Ho Chi Minh City. Additional hours of instruction and guided field practice are scheduled during excursions in Mekong Delta and through the homestay period. These practicum classes take full advantage of the local environment, requiring students to practice their skills outside the walls of the classroom with the support of the language instructors.

Classes and field-based language activities are taught by qualified, native-speaking language teachers who have experienced in teaching Vietnamese for students of SIT Study Abroad's Vietnam semester program. Students are placed into the appropriate level based on oral proficiency interviews on arrival in Vietnam. These placements may not directly correspond to the student's level at the home institution as SIT courses focus on communicative competence and linguistic functional ability.

Homework is assigned daily and active participation in class conversations is essential and required. The course includes weekly quizzes, a midterm test and a final examination. In class, various teaching methods are employed, including in-class discussion on Vietnamese and American subjects, role plays, recitations for aural comprehension, grammar exercises, as well as out-of-classroom field exercises and social activities with instructors. Every week students also practice their language skills with local students in groups of 2 to 4 students for at least two hours. Particular attention is paid to building a vocabulary of terms that will support students during educational excursions and communication with homestay families.

## 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 course includes daily quizzes and homework, weekly tests, and midterm and final examinations. Students are expected to complete 1 to 2 hours' 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.

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. Students also participate in out-of-class educational excursions. These practicums take full advantage of the local environment, requiring students to practice their skills outside the walls of the classroom, yet in a structured way with the support of the language instructions.

**Language Pledge:** Speaking Vietnamese throughout each day, with classmates, teachers, homestay families, and community members will solidify student confidence, enhance fluency, and motivate deeper engagement in the cultural life of Vietnamese communities.

## 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 3*. 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 3 contact hours on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. In addition, students will practice language in actual contexts with language teachers, SIT staff, local students, and homestay families, such as at markets, parks, shops, schools and outdoor activities. Several sites visits will be organized in Ho Chi Minh City and Mekong Delta aiming to enhance language learning and applications.

### **Classes are scheduled accordingly**

9:00-10:00: Listening and Speaking

10:00-10:30: Grammar and comprehension

10:30-11:30: Exercises with the guidance from language instructors

### **Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

Instructors evaluate students' performance based on observation, written exercises, quizzes 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, and adherence to the language pledge. They are expected to complete the total work including outside-the-classroom activities.

### **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.

### **Field Trip Assignments (15%)**

Field trip assignments are designed mainly for the development of oral proficiency. Field trips expose students to different forms of real-life communicative settings, lecturers structure the assignments with specific options as follow:

- a. Facilitate one 20 to 30-minute group discussion on given topics.
- b. Giving a short presentation either in group or individually
- c. Small group project on emerging issues at visiting sites (Mekong Delta excursion)
- d. Do a creative writing project or write a report on the field trips (from 500 to 700 words)

### **Weekly Quizzes (15%)**

Quizzes are pre-step to prepare for the two main tests. It finalizes the weekly progress students have made in terms of vocabulary and contextual appropriate, grammatical use; cultural understanding; correct tones in spelling; and reading comprehension. Each quiz is a tool to test the effectiveness of regular homework.

There are two main quizzes conducted on the first and second weeks of this three-week course. The quiz usually contains 5 written parts and lasts from 30 to 45 minutes.

### **Two Tests: Midterm Test (20%) and Final Test (25%)**

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 90 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:*

<b>Daily class participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Daily homework</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Field Trip Assignments</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Midterm test</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final test</b>	<b>25%</b>

### **Attendance**

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 late start of class are also counted as an absence and may impact the student's participation grade.

**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.

**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>.