Intensive Language Study
SAMO-1000 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)
SIT Study Abroad Program:
Samoa: Pacific Communities and Social Change

Course Description
The language course is designed to prepare students for daily social interactions with Samoans. Learning basic language will help students to enrich all aspects of their experience abroad. Classes and field-based language activities will be taught by experienced language instructors with the assistance of the Academic Director using materials adapted for SIT Study Abroad in conjunction with Peace Corps Samoa and the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Major Course Objectives
- To develop basic communication skills in Samoan language
- To provide a grammatical foundation that allows students to formulate their own ideas in Samoan
- To develop culturally appropriate language skills

How these objectives will be met
The language program begins with an introduction to Samoan sounds and structures in Hawaii with Associate Professor John Mayer, Chair of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literature at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The first 20 hours of language will be conducted in a university setting in Samoa with approximately three hours of lessons per day. Following this, students will travel to a rural village where they will spend one week with individual families and continue group lessons for part of the day. Lessons will continue after the village stay. Students will use a Samoa Language book designed for SIT students. Language materials are competency based and include sample language, vocabulary, grammar and cultural notes and worksheets. Song and dance will also be included in the program. Language games and activities will provide further language learning opportunities. Students are encouraged to use language as an integral part of their experience.

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

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much as possible outside of the classroom. Assessment will include both oral interviews and written exams.

**Topic Overview by Week**

**WEEK ONE:** Approximately five classroom hours of language  
**Topics:** Introduction to Samoan Sounds, Stock Expressions, Greeting People, Asking for help with Language  
**Tasks:** Worksheets, greeting People; learning at least 20 new words

**WEEK TWO:** Approximately ten hours of formal classroom instruction plus sessions on Samoan song and dance  
**Topics:** Introducing Self, Counting, Meeting and Taking Leave, Asking Where, Talking about Family, Forming Samoan sentences  
**Tasks:** Worksheets, journal entries about self and family, explain photos of family; written quiz, Samoan song and dance

**WEEK THREE:** Approximately ten hours of formal classroom instruction plus sessions on Samoan song and dance  
**Topics:** Using pronouns and various tenses both negative and positive; Asking and answering Questions, Having a Meal with a Family and Food Preferences  
**Tasks:** Worksheets, journal entries, grammar review; written exam #1; oral Interview with language staff

**WEEK FOUR:** Village stay: ten formal classroom hours plus activities, surveys and conversations with host families in Samoan (additional 5 hours)  
**Topics:** Talking about the Past and Activities, Wishes, Permission; Connecting and Describing words  
**Tasks:** Design and present language games, worksheets, complete language journal activities with family, survey task.

**WEEK FIVE:** Final five hours of classroom instruction, revision and assessment  
**Topics:** Weather, Shopping, Using Transport, Revision  
**Tasks:** Language Exam #2; ACTFL exam

**Student Assessment**

Students will complete both written and oral assignments. Two exams will be given and include both an oral and written component. Language instructors in conjunction with the Academic Director will evaluate student performance. Final grades will be assigned by the Academic Director and will be based on the following criteria:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal Keeping</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worksheets</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Policies that apply to the course**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in other cultural activities including singing and dancing. Practice and daily language use is the key to success in language learning so students are expected to interact with Samoans and use the language outside the classroom. Students are asked to refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

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