Introduction to Icelandic

ICEL 1000 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Iceland: Renewable Energy, Technology, and Recourse Economics

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. Please do not assume these are the exact lectures and readings for any subsequent semester.

Course Description
The introduction to Icelandic course invites students into Icelandic through a communicative active approach to learning this ancient language. By learning Icelandic, students gain unique access to Icelandic culture and deeper understanding of energy issues. This course is designed for learners of all abilities, and emphasis is based on gaining competency in functional Icelandic through practical language learning activities.

Course Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Show understanding of the historical roots and development of Icelandic;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the Icelandic alphabet and pronunciation;
- Apply basic rules of grammar and interact with homestay families;
- Use Icelandic for basic writing and conversation.

Language of Instruction
This course is conducted in Icelandic.

Course Schedule
The course is intended for students with no previous knowledge of Icelandic. Students will learn step-by-step how to communicate in Icelandic and how to use the language in a practical way.
- On arrival, students are introduced to their first Icelandic phrases.
- During the first week, students become familiar with pronunciation and try out their first Icelandic conversations.
- In the Westfjords, classes are held at the University Centre of the Westfjords and at Holt, a beautifully located retreat center.
• In Ísafjördur students are hosted by local families and encouraged to apply their first Icelandic skills within the homestay environment.

Learning is activity-based and incorporates real-world practice and cultural excursions. Conversation exercises will include language games and Icelandic singing. The course also includes a visit to the sites of the famous Gisli Saga. Further Icelandic instruction is provided in Reykjavik, where students engage in challenging lessons tailored to their needs and abilities and will also achieve reading and basic writing skills. The Icelandic lectures will be taught by an experienced language instructor who will accompany the students in the Westfjords as well as in Reykjavik to provide continuity throughout the program. Icelandic classes will end in Reykjavik with a final written and oral exam.

**Course Materials**
Prior to arrival, students complete the free online tutorial “Icelandic Online” accessible here: [http://icelandiconline.is](http://icelandiconline.is). Students will demonstrate during orientation what they learned from this exercise. This assignment is outlined in detail in the Academic Director Letter students receive after acceptance into the program.

Course materials are provided by the language instructor in the form of photocopies and other materials.

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**
The main criteria for evaluation will be the extent to which students use basic communication skills and demonstrate an understanding of Icelandic culture. Grade is determined by:

**Description of Assignments**
• Participation: Students must use their knowledge of Icelandic in class, during excursions, and with homestay families.
• Class Assignments: Several small in-class assignments and activities on both language and culture. Exercises are designed to practice communication as well as grammar.
• Homework: Several short written homework assignments to deepen contents or prepare for a lecture.
• Final Exam: With written and oral components.

**Assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>10%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Assignments and homework</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>B Above Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>74-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66%</td>
<td>D Below Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below 64</td>
<td>F Fail</td>
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Expectations and Policies

- **Show up prepared.** Be on time; have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- **Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements.** This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- **Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer.** These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- **Comply with academic integrity policies** as specified in the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook: [http://www.sit.edu/SSA_Other_documents/Student_Handbook.pdf](http://www.sit.edu/SSA_Other_documents/Student_Handbook.pdf)
- **Respect differences of opinion** (classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). 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 see 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.

**Please note:** the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may modified by the Academic Director in order to better suit the needs of the course and its participants. Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, students will be promptly notified.