Course Syllabus

Intensive Language Study: French I

FREN 1000 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Switzerland: International Studies and Multilateral Diplomacy

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 Description
This course seeks to provide students with broader access to the host culture and enable participation in daily social life. Students are introduced to basic concepts and principles of grammar, developing the ability to function easily in predictable daily social situations and maintain basic face-to-face conversations.

With a focus on communicative competence and linguistic functional ability, the lessons cover grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation as well as skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Instructors adapt the content of the courses to students’ needs in order to achieve much greater fluency in a short period of time.

Instructors use a wide variety of materials and exercises, including authentic recorded material, role-plays, newspapers, and magazines, in addition to a French learning method proposed by the language school where classes take place.

Through a homestay residence in the French-speaking Canton of Vaud, each student becomes a member of a family and shares in its daily life. This opportunity facilitates cultural immersion and helps develop language skills further.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, student should be able to:

- Communicate in simple and routine tasks, to ask and answer simple questions on familiar topics and to handle very short social exchanges
- Read short, simple texts, understand short, simple personal letters and to write short notes and messages such as postcards, emails, etc.

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Language of Instruction
This course is conducted entirely in French.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria
Description of Assignments:
- Written exam: grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production; questions are multiple choice and short answer
- Oral exam: 10-minute exam with 2 French teachers, assessing fluency, vocabulary, use of structures learned in class, improvement
- In-class quizzes: short quizzes corresponding to topics studied in class
- Homework: completion of exercises
- Participation: questions and participation in oral exercises, motivation

Assessment:
- Written exam 40%
- Oral exam 30%
- In-class quizzes 10%
- Homework 10%
- Participation 10%

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
- Show up prepared. Be on time; have your homework completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification.
- 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.
- Comply with academic integrity policies as specified in the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook: 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.

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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 that the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may be modified by the Academic Directors 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.

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