Malagasy

MALA-1000 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Madagascar: Traditional Medicine and Healthcare Systems

**Course Description**
Introductory spoken Malagasy language classes are designed to provide a communicative base from which to speak with homestay families, vendors, taxi drivers, and other local people with whom you'll interact on a daily basis. Emphasis is on speaking and comprehension through classroom and field instruction. Malagasy language instructors have developed their own materials through workshops sponsored by the SIT African Languages Project and based upon their own local experience.

**Learning Outcomes**
By the end of the course, you should be able to:
- Use Malagasy to make introductions, ask and answer basic questions, and talk about daily activities;
- Apply understanding of Malagasy language and culture in the use of appropriate greeting and leave-taking phrases in various settings;
- Express understanding and command of basic grammatical structures through language usage;
- Relate the role of the Malagasy language in Malagasy culture and society;
- Situate Malagasy values and beliefs and how they are changing.

**Course Requirements**

**Readings**
Throughout the semester, various readings will be assigned to complement the material covered in class and on field visits. You are responsible for any required readings and should be prepared to incorporate them into discussions in class. The readings will help you to place coursework into context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class.

*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.*

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning
Please note: Course content, lecturers and readings may be modified as needed. Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, students will be promptly notified.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Malagasy Assignments
Teachers evaluate student performance at each class meeting. Lessons are planned and students are grouped according to learning pace and individual strengths and weaknesses. At the end of the course, teachers compose an evaluation for each student, taking into account both classroom performance and improvement of language skills outside the classroom.

Students are also evaluated on at least one oral presentation, written homework, and on the efforts made to use Malagasy outside the classroom. In addition, teachers give an oral proficiency exam to help in assessing your progress over the course of the semester. The final course grade is determined by the academic director based on a combination of all of the criteria mentioned in this section.

Evaluation by the Language Instructors includes:
- Homework assignments: 20%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Final exam: 20%
- Class participation: 20%
- Effort: 20%
- Use outside the class: 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

Grading Criteria
An “A” grade for an assignment entails superior (not just “very good”) performance in terms of structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency, and the provision of factual, numerical and/or historical evidence. In terms of class participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all language classes, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the students’ participation will be monitored and taken into account.

*All written assignments should be typed. Texts sent by e-mail will not be accepted. Make sure you have a laptop or computer available and keep back up files so nothing gets accidentally lost or erased.*

Course Schedule

*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.*
The overall calendar program reflects coordination within the various course components. For example, lectures and field-based visits in the Social and Political Dimensions of Health and Healthcare Practice in Madagascar seminars are accompanied by Malagasy classes that focus on specific vocabulary and expressions pertinent to those activities.

Each lesson will be divided into four parts (based on a 120-minute class):
1. An overview of the lesson with defined objectives (10 minutes)
2. Introduction of new vocabulary (20 minutes)
3. Grammar instructions (20 minutes)
4. Guided exercises and dialogue (50 minutes)
5. Cultural notes relevant to lesson (20 minutes)

Student Expectations

Class Participation
Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, educational excursions and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

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 Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to you at Orientation.

*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.

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning