Intensive Language Study: French IV

FREN 3000 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

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

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent 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 aims to provide students with broader access to the host culture and enhance participation in daily social life. Students develop their conversation and comprehension skills, strengthening their interactive research. By the end of the course, students should be able to participate in discussions relating to particular interests.

This course focuses 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 a much greater fluency in a short period of time.

Building off skills that students already have, instructors use a wide variety of materials and exercises including authentic recorded material, role-plays, and newspapers and magazines, in addition to a French grammar book proposed by the language school where classes take place.

Through a home stay 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.

Expected Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, student should be able to:
- Interact with natives with fluency and spontaneity
- Take an active part in discussions in familiar contexts, as well as to present descriptions on a wide range of subjects of personal interest and to explain a viewpoint on a topical issue
- Understand the main point of TV news, films and current affairs programs and to read a wide range of articles and reports concerned with contemporary issues

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• Write clear text on subjects of academic context and personal interest as well as to write letters to highlight the significance of events and experiences.

Language of Instruction
This course is conducted entirely in French.

Student Evaluation and Grading Criteria
Description of Assignments:
• Written exam: grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production. Multiple choice, short answer, and open-ended questions
• Oral exam: 10-minute exam with two French teachers. Student will be asked to choose a press article, present it, discuss it, and answer questions. Will be assessed: fluency, vocabulary, use of structures learned in class, ability to answer improvised questions, and improvement
• Oral presentation: 10-minute presentation with a handout for the group. Will be assessed: fluency, structure, grammar and vocabulary, content, and ability to open a debate
• Homework and participation: homework assignments (exercises and short essays), relevant participation in debates, motivation

Assessment:
Written exam 40%
Oral exam 30%
Oral presentation 20%
Homework and 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.

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• 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.

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.