

Beginning Mongolian

MONG 1003-1503 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Mongolia and Siberia: Nomadism, Geopolitics, and the Environment

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 beginning level language course is designed to further develop students' basic level proficiency and communication in Mongolian. Primary emphasis is made upon developing listening and speaking skills. However, integrating reading and writing skills is highlighted to reinforce students' oral comprehension and conversation. The *Beginning Mongolian* course begins immediately after students' arrival in Mongolia, and throughout 8 weeks of the semester students are encouraged to apply their language skills in all facets of the program, especially during the urban and rural homestays, countryside excursions and the Independent Study Project or internship period. This is a component of the semester program that requires a lot of commitment from the learner. The more enthusiastic language learner you are the easier and better your learning outcomes and the more successful is your integration into the host community. Finally, it has been attested by long-term experience that even the better your language proficiency the deeper the richness of your Independent Study Project research and internship experience.

The Mongolian Language is an Altaic language and displays the typical features of vowel harmony and agglutination that means single or multiple suffixes are added to modify meaning and achieve inflection. The essential Mongolian language vocabulary is mostly based on the nomadic way of life.

The Academic Director in cooperation with the Language Program Coordinator facilitates the language program, monitor language classes, and conduct discussions of student progress with instructors. The AD is also the person of record with SIT who assigns the final grades for language classes.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and a short written test conducted during orientation in Mongolia.

Learning Outcomes

The *Beginning Mongolian* course comprises of 45 hours of instruction (3 credits). Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Acquire basic grammatical structures necessary for rudimentary conversation;
- Communicate information about daily functions;

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- Ask for directions;
- Negotiate simple transactions in the homestay, in restaurants, in the market, etc;
- Tell some facts about themselves and also to ask for information from others.

Course Requirements

Methodology

Trained Mongolian language instructors, who are the native speaker of the language and who use oral-proficiency based approach, will conduct language classes. The classes will be taught in small groups with up to 5 students per group. Language groups may rotate for thematic seminar weeks during your stay in Ulaanbaatar. In comparison to thematic seminar periods in Ulaanbaatar, during the rural homestay students will have more informal environment for language classes and enjoy more time in the afternoon to interact with native Mongolian speakers and develop their language skills.

The core language textbook will be Mongolian language manual *Ìííâîë Öýë* developed by the SIT Mongolia team. The topics and functions covered in the manual are general introductions, everyday activities, doing things, getting around and talking about abilities and needs; describing objects and people; asking for clarifications. The book also presents new structures that are highlighted and practiced through free and controlled exercises. Your Language teachers will also provide additional materials.

Textbooks and Resources

Ìííâîë Öýë, SIT Study Abroad Mongolia Mongolian Language Manual, Ulaanbaatar.

Oxford Mondudar English-Mongolian Mongolian-English Dictionary. 2008. OUP, Mondudar Publishing.

Sanders, Alan, J. K. and J. Bat-Ireedui. 1999, *Colloquial Mongolian*, Routledge, USA.

Sanders, Alan J. K. and J. Bat-Ireedui. 1995. *Lonely Planet: Mongolian Phrase Book*.

- <https://fsi-languages.yojik.eu/languages/PeaceCorps/Mongolian/Peace-Corps-Pre-Service-Training-Book-Mongilian.pdf>
- <https://allnet.uiowa.edu/mongolian-language-and-culture-resources>

PLEASE NOTE: Course content, topics, and readings may be modified as needed. Should any change of class topics or assignments be necessary, students will be promptly notified.

Language Functions Covered in the Course

- Greetings
- Introducing oneself and others
- Identifying objects and their owners
- Talking about past and present actions
- Numbers, times and seasons
- Expressing feelings
- Likes and dislikes
- Describing and asking families/herds
- Following commands
- Asking questions
- Colors/Clothes
- Physical conditions
- Making suggestions
- Describing needs
- Asking and giving directions

Language Structures

- Masculine and Feminine words
- Vowel agreement

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- Personal pronouns
- Possessive pronouns
- Question endings
- Wh “ questions, question words and particles
- Yes/No questions
- Compound number suffix
- Ordinal and Cardinal Numbers
- Postpositions
- Word order in sentences
- All Cases
- All simple tenses of verbs (present, past and future)

Daily Class Schedule: A minimum of 2 contact hours every weekday. During excursions, 2-hour review and practice sessions will be conducted twice a week.

Classes are scheduled accordingly:

9:00 – 10:40 - Integrated skills language classes with emphases on oral communication.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

It is our responsibility to arrange a learning experience for you, but learning a language requires active engagement from the learner’s side. The language course focuses on communicative competence and linguistically functional ability.

Teachers on a daily basis evaluate your performance. At the end of the semester, teachers collectively compose a final evaluation for each student, taking into account both classroom performance and the use and development of language skills in the host community. You are graded in each of the following areas: grammar, vocabulary, oral and reading comprehension, fluency, pronunciation, motivation, attendance, progress and usage outside of classroom.

Methods of Evaluation

A weighted letter grade will be assigned according to the following criteria:

Use Outside Class: 10%

Students have to be very active and creative in using the language in and out of class. The language instructors observe and keep track of the students’ use of the language in various settings outside of class (e.g. during the country homestays, during long hour car drives, museum visits, train or air travels etc.). These notes are taken into consideration for the final evaluation of the student’s linguistic progress.

Active Attendance: 10%

Regular attendance and active participation in all classes and other language activities is vital to your language learning. Your participation should be positive, consistent and productive.

Motivation: 10%

In addition to attending class, students should demonstrate active participation in all in class and out of class language activities. Students should demonstrate continuing interest and keep their motivation by asking questions, initiating interactions with Mongolians (in Mongolian), timely submission of assignments/homework, initiating consultations with language teachers when required, constantly extending Mongolian vocabulary beyond the SIT language manual etc. Motivation makes up 10% of the final grade, and it is at your language instructors’ discretion. Students are responsible for making up any missed work (quizzes, however, cannot be made up) and for retrieving any graded items returned in their absence.

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Progress: 10%

You will be given ongoing tests and quizzes; and the language instructors will grade your progress comparing all their records for each student throughout the semester.

Language Projects: 20% (4%-4%-6%-6%)

There will be four mini projects: 1) Presentation My UB family (4%) and 2) My life in the countryside (6%); 3) Poster presentation (4%); and 4) Presentation MY ISP (6%). Students are encouraged to conduct these projects only in the Mongolian language. These projects are designed to encourage students to use and practice their Mongolian outside the classroom, particularly during the rural and urban homestays. Detailed handouts will be provided a day or a week prior to the assignments depending on the project's nature and objectives.

Final Exam: 40% (Spoken 25%, Written 15%)

SIT Study Abroad–Mongolia language instructors and a certified Mongolian language teacher, invited from the National University of Mongolia or University of the Humanities, give the final exam and make the evaluations.

The final exam is given in two parts. You will be given an hour and a half long written part, which is a multiple-choice test with grammar and vocabulary, writing and reading comprehension sections. The second part of the testing session is a 15-20 minute long exit interview in Mongolian. The AD, based on the language instructors' final evaluations, and your demonstrated effort to apply the language skills learned in the classroom, determines the final semester grade.

Assessment

The final grade is determined as follows:

Use Outside Class	10%
Active Attendance	10%
Motivation	10%
Progress	10%
Language Projects	20%
Final Exam	40%

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, academic seminar lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful

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behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of student participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Additional Information

Homestays

As a complement to the language classes, homestays provide students with the opportunity to learn from different people and to use their language skills continually in a multilingual learning environment. Our goal is to help students develop the necessary communication tools which they can use with their host families, neighbors and Mongolians on the street.

Field Exercises

Once a week, through field assignments, students enrich their classroom learning experience and their ability to function in real life language situations, assimilate everyday life issues and immerse in the host culture. Field assignments are done both individually and in groups.

Office Hours

Office hours are from 3-5pm each day. The teacher may also have additional office hours for students who need further support.

Expectations and Policies

Class Participation

Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Mongolian language lectures, discussions, educational excursions, assignments and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. An absent student is responsible for contacting the instructor, the tutor, and/or fellow students to be prepared for the assignments s/he missed and the ones scheduled for the next class.

Show up prepared

Be on time, have your assignments completed and points in mind for clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.

Have assignments completed on schedule, and done according to the specified requirements

This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Use Mongolian in Mongolian language classes

You are encouraged to talk to all Mongolian instructors in Mongolian. Your effort to use Mongolian could be evaluated as part of your active attendance in classes.

Quizzes and tests

Quizzes will be given on a regular basis. No make-up quizzes/tests are available. However, missed opportunities for serious reasons e.g. serious illness, will be taken into consideration.

Ask questions in class - Engage the lecturer

Teachers are highly respected so your polite and engaged behavior is expected.

Comply with academic integrity policies

No plagiarism or cheating (nothing unethical)

Respect differences of opinion (classmates', teachers')

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 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.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at: <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.

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