Course Description
This intensive course aims to extend and strengthen previously acquired complex competencies necessary for French speech, comprehension, reading and writing, through integrating traditional classroom instruction, field-based activities, and homestay practice. The course is primarily designed to develop student’s communicative proficiency in French. While emphasis is placed primarily upon oral comprehension and developing conversational competencies (i.e., listening and speaking), reading and writing are also highlighted as crucial to the reinforcement of those skills.

The bilingual cultural contexts of Morocco and the North African region are built into the course and introduced through audiovisual materials and experiential activities. These materials and exercises augment the course textbook, which has been specifically designed for the program by SIT Morocco language instructors. While the lower language levels focus on daily life through an emphasis on conversational and communicative approaches, Advanced French addresses increasingly complex issues related to journalism, culture, literature, politics, society, religion and gender, amongst other topics. The structural and grammatical usages of French are, at this level, emphasized as necessary linguistic tools enabling students to critically analyze French and francophone texts and discourses and to express ideas in French at an appropriate level.

An integrative focus on textual readings from magazines and newspapers, fiction and poetry, music and film/television, aims to foster an enlightened, sophisticated and sensitive understanding of the bilingual phenomenon in the postcolonial culture of Morocco and North Africa.

Language Levels and Placement
Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on estimated-ACTFL oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in Morocco.

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**Course Objectives**
Advanced French has an interdisciplinary and experiential focus, encompassing 45 class hours (3 credits). Its main objectives are:

- To gain advanced proficiency in spoken French;
- To explore a variety of media and their specific usage of French;
- To employ French confidently and effectively in everyday situations and in reading sophisticated prose in literature and the media;
- To acquire insight into the role of French language within Morocco and North African life and culture.

**Learning Outcomes**
By the end of the program, students will have mastered the following linguistic competencies in French:

- Read a short story or novella in French with ease and confidence
- Read and comprehend complete news items from the written press
- Compose an elaborate personal letter to relatives and friends
- Write at some length and about one’s personal experiences in Morocco
- Write suitably and at some length about hobbies, interests and academic plans
- Meaningfully discuss one’s ISJ
- Describe in a fairly detailed fashion homestay and SIT neighborhoods
- Conduct full-fledged interviews in French
- Understand TV weather reports, news, and chat-shows
- Initiate conversation with the AD and SIT staff
- Narrate an intricate event of daily life
- Summarize a film, a play or a novel
- Narrate a day at school; from the educational excursion
- Tell a joke in French.

**Course Requirements**
Students will be placed in small groups according to the results of the in-country placement test. Each group will be assigned specific reading materials corresponding to its level.

**Readings**
Readings will serve as the basis for oral presentations in class and written commentary to be submitted periodically to the language instructor. Students are responsible for all required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The readings will help you place the classes in context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class. Students will be sent out to perform field-based exercises and activities and will be required to give oral presentations or write detailed narrative accounts of these experiential drills. Students will also be assigned newspaper and magazine articles and short stories for explication and comment either in class or as individual homework.

**Required Texts**
In addition to a *Reading Packet* prepared by the program’s French instructors, readings for the Advanced French levels include:

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Supplementary texts include:
- Films, television, and other audiovisual materials
- magazines and newspapers

**PLEASE NOTE:** COURSE CONTENTS, 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**
Evaluation takes into account the combined testing results from regular homework assignments, oral tests, and regular oral and written presentations of field activities and assigned readings. Timely completion of all French assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation and presentation of evidence. Tests will not be repeated for absentees. Only certifiable and verifiable absences from tests will be accepted.

**Oral Grade**
- Final oral exam 25%
- In-class presentation of field assignments 10%
- In-class presentation of assigned readings 10%
- Class participation 5%

**Written Grade**
- Final written exam 25%
- Written skills in regular class tests 10%
- Written skills in “rédaction” test 10%
- In-class “dictée” 5%

**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

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**Grading Criteria**

Grades are assigned fairly, rigorously and in accordance with the system charted below. French instructors also take into account the student’s efforts expended to achieve specific learning goals and outcomes specified at the start of the semester by the Program Director, the language instructor and the student. An “A” letter grade reflects superior or exceptional work, indicating mastery of the competencies expected in that particular assignment. A “B” grade demonstrates that the student has some possession of the required competencies but is not entirely in control of them. A grade of “C” reflects work that is satisfactory, while a “D” reflects insufficiency. In terms of class participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all discussions, classroom exercises, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of student participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Our French instructors prefer to give numerical grades on a scale of 1 to 20. They generally tend to be more conservative in their grade assignments than US teachers. The following chart shows the equivalencies between the instructors’ numerical grades and their alphabetical counterparts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numerical Grade</th>
<th>Alphabetical Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 or 20/20</td>
<td>A = 19 or 20/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 or 18/20</td>
<td>A- = 17 or 18/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 or 16/20</td>
<td>B+ = 15 or 16/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 or 14/20</td>
<td>B = 13 or 14/20</td>
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<td>12/20</td>
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<td>11/20</td>
<td>C+ = 11/20</td>
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<td>9/20</td>
<td>C- = 9/20</td>
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<td>8/20</td>
<td>D+ = 8/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/20</td>
<td>D = 7/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/20</td>
<td>D- = 6/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/20</td>
<td>F = 5/20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note that all written assignments should be presented in typed format. Assignments submitted by email will not be accepted*

**Additional Information**

**Homestays**

As a complement to 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 Moroccans on the street.

**Student Expectations**

**Class Participation**

Class participation reflects regular attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active participation in all program activities: lectures, language instruction classes, educational excursions and FEJ activities. Any absence will have to be justified. In pursuit of clear academic objectives and learning outcomes, students are expected to be polite, respectful of their teachers and program staff, as well as responsible and sensitive toward the host culture.

*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 program dossier given to you at orientation.

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