



Intermediate Vietnamese

VIET 2003-2503 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Vietnam: Culture, Social Change and Development

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 is designed for students who have already achieved a basic foundation in Vietnamese and aim to improve general competence, particularly in oral expression and listening comprehension. The objectives of this course are to strengthen students' knowledge of Vietnamese grammar, sentence patterns and vocabulary, contributing to develop the foundation necessary to further language study. Emphasis is placed on expanding skills—i.e, expression of more complex ideas, successful use of language appropriate to specific social situations, expanding vocabulary beyond simple day-to-day issues and practice comprised of sample conversations, skills, free discussions and presentations. In addition, reading and simple writing are also covered, and students are required to produce structured essays and read short passages for comprehension.

Instruction consists of 40 hours of formal classroom hours spread over a 6-week period in Ho Chi Minh City. An additional 10 hours of instruction and guided field practice are scheduled during excursions in Mekong Delta and through the homestay period. These practicum classes take full advantage of the local environment, requiring students to practice their skills outside the walls of the classroom with the support of the language instructors.

Classes and field-based language activities are taught by qualified, native-speaking language teachers at University of Economics and Vietnam-American Association in Ho Chi Minh City. Course placement at the start of the semester may not directly correspond to the student's level at their home institution as SIT courses focus on communicative and linguistic functional ability in oral expression and listening comprehension.

Homework is assigned daily and active participation in class conversations is essential and required. The course includes weekly tests, midterm and final examinations. Students regularly participate in class field trips, role plays and social activities with instructors. Every week, students also practice their language skills with local students in groups of 2 to 4 students for at least two hours.

Students are thus enabled to enrich all aspects of their experience abroad by functioning at an intermediate level in the host language during field methods exercises, and when interacting with homestay families and local

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contacts. Throughout the course, particular attention is paid to building a vocabulary of terms that will support students during educational excursions and their Independent Study Projects.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews conducted during orientation in Vietnam.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students are expected to:

- Develop communication skills in oral and written Vietnamese, building a foundation for extensive study through formal instruction and cultural immersion;
- Attain intermediate-level skills to comprehend, use and discuss authentic materials (Vietnamese news briefs, legends and folktales, idiomatic sayings, etc.);
- Deepen understanding of Vietnamese grammar, produce longer, multi-clause sentences;
- Describe their likes and dislikes, plans and opinions;
- Function in daily Vietnamese society with confidence and relative ease; Use language in a culturally appropriate manner.

Course Requirements

This course includes daily quizzes and homework, weekly tests, and midterm and final examinations. Students are expected to complete 1 to 2 hours' preparation work or homework for every hour spent in class. Four hours are dedicated to each of 10 units in the textbook covered over the course of the term. Students have additional ten hours of practicum or additional instruction on selected topics and one hour of weekly one-on-one tutorial.

Class practice includes information and opinion formats as well as role plays with communicative activities comprising task-based partner and group work. Students are responsible for memorizing vocabulary and reviewing grammar patterns before class in order to reserve valuable class time for hands-on practice.

Proactive participation in class discussion is essential and required. Students also participate in out-of-class educational excursions. These practicums take full advantage of the local environment, requiring students to practice their skills outside the walls of the classroom, yet in a structured way with the support of the language instructions.

Sample Course Topics

- The progressive, the continuous and the forfeit aspect of an action
- Vietnamese verb tenses
- Actions as past experiences
- Sentences with a predicate verb taking two objects
- Sentences with a nominal predicate
- Position of the adverbs
- Reduplication of verbs
- Comparative sentences
- The aspect particles

Model Conversational Topics

- Finding hotel rooms
- Going to see a doctor
- Making an appointment
- Bargaining
- Phone conversation

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- Travel
- Entertainment
- Talking about interests and hobbies
- Making an invitation
- Describing people
- Describing personalities
- Studying
- Making comparisons

Textbooks and Required Materials

Nguyen Van Hue et al. Editor. 2008. *Giao Trinh Tieng Viet Cho Nguoi Nuoc Ngoai. Tap 2 (VLS 2)*. Ho Chi Minh National University Publisher.

Supplementary Texts

Thuc hanh Tieng Viet. Level B. 2001. The Gioi Publishing House.

Bai Doc Tieng Viet Nang Cao. 2004. Hanoi National University Publisher.

Various articles, video clips, and web sources.

Daily Class Schedule (minimum of 2.5 contact hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, except during excursions):

Classes are scheduled accordingly:

9:00-10:00: Listening and Speaking

10:00-10:30: Grammar and comprehension

10:30-11:30: Exercises with the guidance from language instructors

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Instructors evaluate students' performance based on observation, written exercises, quizzes and exams given throughout the course. Final grades are assigned by the Academic Director in consultation with the language instructors on the basis of the instructors' evaluation, the students' own self-evaluation, and the Academic Director's observation of the students' participation in classes and their efforts to use the language outside of the classroom.

Oral Proficiency Interview

Final oral proficiency interviews are conducted toward the end of the semester to provide a measurement of students' overall linguistic progress. Thus, the course grade provides an assessment of students' performance in meeting the requirements.

Methods of Evaluation

Daily Class Participation (10%)

Students are evaluated based on their constant involvement in both classroom and out-door activities. They are expected to complete 80%-90% of the total work including 4 weekly out-door activities

Daily Homework (15%)

Daily homework aims to sharpen the ability to use compound and complex structures, abstract vocabulary, to apply tones rules to limit spelling mistakes, to understand word formations (sino-Vietnamese) and their differences in meaning. Students are expected to do weekly readings and critical writings with length and difficulty extending after each week.

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The completion of 80% to 90% of 6 readings and 6 short critical writings is required to maintain constant progress.

Field Trip Assignments (15%)

Field trip assignments are designed mainly for oral development. Taking the advantage of field trip to expose students to different forms of real-life communicative settings, lecturers structure the assignments with specific options as follow:

- a. Facilitate one 20 to 30 minute group discussion on given topics.
- b. Giving a short presentation either in group or individually
- c. Small group project on emerging issues at visiting sites (Mekong Delta excursion)
- d. Do a creative writing or write a report of the field trips (from 500 to 700 words)

Weekly Quizzes (15%)

Quizzes are pre-step to prepare for the two main tests. It finalizes the weekly progress students have made in term of vocabulary and structure use, cultural understanding, correction of tones in spelling, and application of reading skill. It is a tool to test the effectiveness of regular homework.

There are two main quizzes conducted on the second and the fourth week of 6 weeks course. The quiz usually contains 5 written parts and lasts from 30 to 45 minutes.

Two Tests: First Test (20%) and Second Test (25%)

The two main tests navigate students' concentration on both academic and real-life contexts. In addition to technical skills of language study, students are expected to develop cultural competence during the course. Therefore the two main tests are reflection of students' performance and proficiency in academic and experiential aspects.

The two main tests include both written and oral. The written test lasts for 90 minutes and the oral test lasts between 10 and 15 minutes for each student.

1. Writing: 4 parts (Pronunciation; Vocabulary; Reading and Writing)
2. Oral: 2 parts (Independent talk and Pair talk)

The final grade is determined as follows:

Daily class participation	10%
Daily homework	15%
Field Trip Assignments	15%
Quizzes	15%
First test	20%
Second test	25%

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+

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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 academic seminar lectures, discussions, 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.

Expectations and Policies

Class attendance is mandatory and absences are penalized by reducing the language grade, except for illness cases, when the student is expected to provide a medical certificate. In addition, two repeated and unjustified delays are also counted as an absence and may impact the student’s participation grade.

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.

Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. Teachers are highly respected in Vietnam. 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.

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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