



## Beginning Samoan

SAMO 1003 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Samoa: Pacific Communities and Social Change

**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

The language course is designed to prepare students for daily social interactions with Samoans. Learning basic language will help students to enrich all aspects of their experience abroad. It will help students develop basic communication skills and provide a grammatical foundation that will allow them to communicate with Samoans.

### Learning Outcomes

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

- Master common greeting words and interact with Samoans on a daily basis;
- Ask and answer biographical questions and introduce oneself in Samoan;
- Formulate basic Samoan sentences using VSOLT format;
- Use question words and ask and answer questions effectively;
- Describe activities completed in the past;
- Talk about one's family using photos;
- Master the use of independent and dependent pronouns in a variety of tenses;
- Write journal entries about a variety of topics;
- Discuss the weather;
- Negotiate the use of buses and taxis to get from place to place;
- Use Samoan in shopping situations;
- Express thanks appropriately in a variety of settings.

### How these outcomes will be achieved

The language program begins with an introduction to Samoan sounds and structures in Hawaii with Associate Professor John Mayer, Chair of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literature at the

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University of Hawaii at Manoa. Once in Samoa, the first 20 hours of language will be conducted in a university setting with approximately two hours of lessons per day. Following this, students will travel to a rural village where they will spend one week with individual families and continue group lessons for part of the day. Lessons will continue after the village stay.

Students will use a Samoa language book designed for SIT students. Language materials are competency based and include sample language, vocabulary, grammar and cultural notes and worksheets. Song and dance will also be included in the program. Language games and activities will provide further language learning opportunities. Class attendance and participation are emphasized and students are encouraged to use language as much as possible outside of the classroom. Assessment will include both oral interviews and written exams.

## Topic Overview by Week

- WEEK ONE: Approximately five classroom hours of language  
**Topics:** Introduction to Samoan Sounds, Stock Expressions, Greeting people, asking for help with Language  
**Tasks:** Worksheets, greeting people; learning at least 20 new words
- WEEK TWO: Approximately ten hours of formal classroom instruction plus sessions on Samoan song and dance  
**Topics:** Introducing self, counting, meeting and taking leave, asking where, talking about family, forming Samoan sentences  
**Tasks:** Worksheets, journal entries about self and family, explain photos of family; written quiz, Samoan song and dance
- WEEK THREE: Approximately ten hours of formal classroom instruction plus sessions on Samoan song and dance  
**Topics:** Using pronouns and various tenses both negative and positive; Asking and answering questions, having a meal with a family, and food preferences  
**Tasks:** Worksheets, journal entries, grammar review; written exam #1; oral Interview with language staff
- WEEK FOUR: Village stay: ten formal classroom hours plus activities, surveys and conversations with host families in Samoa (additional 5 hours)  
**Topics:** Talking about the past; activities, wishes, permission; connecting and descriptive words  
**Tasks:** Design and present language games, worksheets, complete language journal activities with family, survey task.
- WEEK FIVE: Final five hours of classroom instruction, revision and assessment  
**Topics:** Weather, shopping, using transport, revision  
**Tasks:** Language Exam #2; Oral Proficiency Exam

## Student Assessment

Students will complete both written and oral assignments. Two exams will be given and include both an oral and written component. Final grades will be assigned by the Academic Director and will be based on the following criteria:

Participation	10%
Journal Keeping	20%
Worksheets	20%
Written assignments	10%
Exam #1	20%

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**Policies That Apply to the Course**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in other cultural activities including singing and dancing. Practice and daily language use is the key to success in language learning so students are expected to interact with Samoans and use the language outside the classroom. Students are asked to refer to 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.

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