



Intensive Language Study: Malagasy

MALA 1003 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Madagascar: Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management

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

Introductory spoken Malagasy language classes are designed to give students basic communication skills and a fundamental knowledge of spoken Malagasy. Instruction consists of 30 hours of formal instruction in conjunction with exercises such as market visits, rural stays, excursions, and urban home stays. Malagasy language instructors have developed their own material based on workshops sponsored through SIT's African Languages Project and through local experience.

Course Objectives

Intensive Language Study: Malagasy encompasses 45 contact hours (3 credits). Its main objectives are:

- To gain basic proficiency in spoken Malagasy.
- To develop strong listening comprehension skills.
- To be able to use the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations.
- To acquire insight into Malagasy life and culture through language.
- To help prepare for Independent Study Projects.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should have attained the ability to:

- Utilize oral language to effectively communicate in everyday situations such as greetings, leave-taking and other simple tasks;
- Apply language skills to achieve basic needs in homestay and village stay situations;
- Express cultural competence through language, such as the importance of hospitality, food, taboos, music, ceremonies, and social and familial structures;
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and local participation by making efforts to learn the local language and sing well-known songs.

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Course Requirements

Class attendance is required and emphasizes participation and preparation outside of class. Interactive assignments and homework are regularly assigned, and students are expected to practice language skills in their daily social interactions. Preliminary and final oral proficiency exams are also given to assess progress over the course of the semester.

Readings

Manual for Malagasy Language, SIT Study Abroad September 2010

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

Students receive feedback from the instructors and Academic Director throughout the course. Short presentations are given frequently. Instructors evaluate the students on vocabulary, grammar, accent, and attitude. Final grades reflect the extent and quality of students' participation during the course. The instructors prepare final evaluations, and students are evaluated through direct oral assessment. The Academic Director assigns final grades in collaboration with Malagasy language instructors, based on the following criteria:

Evaluation by language Instructors (Including oral presentations)	70%
Participation in class	10%
Homework and language use in seminars	10%
Language use outside the class	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

Grading Criteria

All grades assigned will take into account the students' special circumstances and challenges they face as foreign students. 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 the students' participation will be monitored and taken into account.

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Student Expectations

Class Participation

Participation in class refers to 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.

PLEASE NOTE: All classes leave ¼ of the scheduled time for the purpose of class discussion of the lecture and/or readings.

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 Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to you at Orientation.

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