



## Intensive Language Study: isiZulu

ZULU-1003 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:  
South Africa: Social and Political Transformation

**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 constitutes 3 credits (45 hours). It provides beginning Zulu language instruction, and aims to develop your **conversational** abilities in Zulu, and to provide you with greater insight into various aspects of Zulu culture, through seminars and excursions. Your Language Coordinator will lead the language course. They will work together with a team of language instructors/tutors. Classes will be held primarily in the SIT program center. The emphasis in this course, rather, is upon basic, practical conversation and cultural cues. This will assist you to make your way around on a daily basis, and to provide you with the building blocks to improve your conversational ability on your own. To maximize opportunities to learn a new language in South Africa, you need to seek out occasions to practice Zulu. In your homestays try to speak to Zulu speakers in Zulu. It is up to you to make as much as you can of the opportunities available. If you have young children in the home, they are usually delighted to be able to teach an adult. Watching Zulu TV, either the news or children's programs, is also beneficial. You are also advised to purchase a Zulu-English dictionary.

### Course Objectives

The Intensive Language Study: isiZulu course has an interdisciplinary and critical focus encompassing 45 academic hours (3 credits). Its main objectives:

- To enhance student interaction with Zulu society through the development of practical communicative language skills and knowledge;
- To build a foundation upon which further studies in Zulu can be undertaken;
- To acquire insight into the culture of Zulu groups nationally and in the Kwazulu Natal region of South Africa.

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## Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate foundational understanding of Zulu through texts built upon self-introduction, culturally appropriate greetings, asking for directions, market language, and other forms of basic self-expression.
- The requisite background knowledge from which to further build upon one's vocabulary and comprehension of Zulu;
- The capacity to demonstrate deeper and more nuanced understanding of Zulu culture.

## Course Requirements

### Readings

You are responsible for all the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The readings will help you place the classes in their context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class. They are not necessarily tailor-made for each and every class.

Nyembezi, C. L. S. and G.R. Dent. *Scholar's Zulu Dictionary (English-Zulu, Zulu-English)*. Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal: Shuter & Shooter Publishers (PTY) Ltd., 1982.

### *Recommended Reading*

Ngwane, Zolani. *Zulu*. New York: The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 1997.

**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

### Intensive Language Study: isiZulu Assignments

Class attendance is required and students are expected to be prepared for class and to participate actively in class. Your participation grade will be determined by your efforts to speak Zulu in and out of class. It will be negatively affected by failure to pay attention, or talking or other disruptive behaviour. Students will be assigned exercises and tests (both written and oral) by the instructor, and will be expected to complete a final exam (oral and written). The following breakdown of grades will be used to arrive at the final letter grade, which is determined by the Academic Director based on the instructor's evaluation and the staff's observations of the student's efforts to use Zulu both in and out of class:

#### *Oral:*

Class Oral	20 percent
Final Oral exam	30 percent

#### *Written:*

Narratives & Class work	10 percent
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Final Written Exam	30 percent
Participation	10 percent

**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.

### **Program Criteria**

The course on Zulu is divided into two complementary modules:

#### Module 1 – Introduction to Zulu

This unit is designed to introduce students to the basics of Zulu including structure, grammar, vocabulary and tense. Students will learn fundamental phrases and be introduced to the essential lexicon in order to be able to engage in culturally appropriate greetings, self-introduction, asking for directions, vital market activities, and other essential and basic tasks. Through building capacity at the introductory level, students are encouraged to actively learn outside the formal classroom setting.

#### Module 2 – Zulu Language and Culture

Complementing the unit on the fundamentals of Zulu language, this unit integrates the goal of language acquisition with developing students' knowledge of Zulu culture and artistic expressions. To this end, through organized excursions and the support of the Zulu Department at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, students participate in Zulu storytelling, hear invited guests speak on Zulu cultural issues, attend cultural events such as the Zulu Reed Dance, visit the University of Zululand, or study Zulu song lyrics or other textual materials in Zulu.

### **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.

**Disability Services:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at [disabilityservices@sit.edu](mailto: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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