



Intensive Language Study: isiZulu

ZULU-1003 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

South Africa: Community Health and Social Policy

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 Overview

The language course is designed to prepare students for daily social demands and to provide access into the host culture. Students are given the tools that will allow them to enrich all aspects of their experience abroad through greater ability to function in the host language. This is especially true when interacting with homestay families and local contacts in Cato Manor and Impendle along with those who choose to go back to a rural community to conduct fieldwork for the Independent Study Project.

This course consists of 3 credits (45 hours). It provides beginning isiZulu language instruction and aims to develop students' conversational abilities in isiZulu, as well as to provide them with greater insight into various aspects of Zulu culture. The isiZulu language coordinator and the team of language instructors/tutors will lead the language course. Most classes will be held at the SIT house, although students will also participate in a number of educational excursions focusing on isiZulu language and the use of the language.

In only 45 class hours, it is not possible to become fluent in any language. Thus, the emphasis in this course is upon basic, practical conversation and cultural cues. This will assist students to make their way around on a daily basis, and provide them with the building blocks to improve their conversational abilities on their own. To maximize opportunities to learn a new language in South Africa, students need to seek out occasions to practice isiZulu. In their homestays, students are encouraged to speak isiZulu as much as possible with their host family and other community members.

Course 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 isiZulu can be undertaken;

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- To acquire insight into the culture of both national Zulu groups and those in the KwaZulu Natal region of South Africa;
- To learn aspects of grammatical expressions and concepts; and
- To understand the relationship between language and power in context.

Expected Outcomes

Students can expect to gain:

- The ability to greet isiZulu-speaking South Africans in their mother tongue in order to facilitate the building of relationships;
- The ability to recognize simple phrases and basic grammatical structure;
- The ability to express oneself in routine contexts including self introduction, utilizing market vocabulary, asking for directions and culturally appropriate greetings;
- The capacity to acquire new isiZulu phrases and vocabulary in the field.

Course Requirements

Readings

Tailor-made readings will be given to students. Students are expected to read and practice the examples given in the reader.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Assignments

Class attendance is required, and students are expected to be prepared for class and to participate actively. The participation grade will be determined by the student's efforts to speak isiZulu in and out of class. This grade will be negatively affected by failure to pay attention, or other disruptive behavior. 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 (it is determined by the academic director based on the instructor's evaluation and the staff's observations of the student's efforts to use isiZulu both in and out of class):

Assignment	Percentage	Due Date
Class oral participation	20 percent	Daily
Final oral exam	30 percent	Week 6
Narratives & written class work	10 percent	Daily
Final written exam	30 percent	Week 6
Participation	10 percent	Daily

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

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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 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.

Student Expectations

Class Participation

Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

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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