

French Language Study

FREN 1003-3503 (3 credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Senegal: Hip-hop, African Diaspora and Decolonial Futures

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 French language course provides the framework for consolidating your French language grammatical and communication competency. A course book created by your instructor contains a variety of reading, grammar, writing and discussion exercises designed and tailored to meet your learning needs and strategies. Selected texts in French, complemented by discussion also in French, offer a broad view on contemporary issues in Africa (sociology, environment, politics, education and development), as students hone French language acquisition. Students spend 30 hours on formal classroom instruction and another 30 hours on field activities that are intended to support language acquisition. Field assignments designed around recreational activities such as sports, song and dance, shopping, and cooking enhance students' language acquisition in interesting and engaging ways to build new vocabulary and develop inter-cultural competence. Students practice learned vocabulary and fluency using simple texts, moving to more complex texts as they develop their language abilities. Language proficiency assessment will include in-class oral and written tests and students' use of French throughout the course of the program in everyday life and field assignments. Students' language abilities are assessed through an oral proficiency test at the beginning of the semester to determine language class level assignment. Further assessment will be used throughout the semester to assess progress.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate spoken and written French grammatical and lexical accuracy;
- Expand active vocabulary, idiomatic usage and knowledge of Senegalese French;
- Read basic/complex French literary texts
- Organize and articulate effectively more complex ideas in speaking as well in writing French; and
- Demonstrate improved French language pronunciation.

Course Schedule*:

*Subject to change to take into consideration students' learning needs and goals

Week 1:

Students fill out a needs analysis form, followed by a group discussion about teaching and learning strategies and a written test.

Grammar: use of articles /tenses and functions/ (Written and oral) exercises

Figures

Text completion and reading exercise for pronunciation. Remediation

Presentations: Students give 5 minute presentations on:

- Ndeup
- Kangkourang
- Magal Touba
- Cousinage à plaisanterie

Week 2:

Grammar: Written and oral exercises on verbs + prepositions / imperative use of En and Y

Uses of Passé Simple / Imparfait/ Conditional

Reading comprehension/ Text : Le repas

Presentations on press articles:

« Non à la mort programmée du fleuve Sénégal »

« Trois mille femmes formées à l'agriculture biodynamique »

Students Research and presentation on:

- Parc de Dioudj
- Aires marines protégées du Sénégal
- Déforestation
- Les éco villages au Sénégal.

Week 3:

Grammar: The use of subjunctive tense/ tense agreement

Listening exercise: draw what you hear

Reading comprehension: Text : Un chauffeur de Confiance

Students research and give presentations on prominent Senegalese figures:

- Kocc Barma (Philosopher)
- Sembene Ousmane (father of African cinema, novelist)
- Cheikh Anta Diop (Multidimensional scholar)
- Aline Sitoe Diatta (Nonviolent female resistant to colonialism)

Week 4:

Grammar: use of the logical connectors / Passive voice/ Relative pronouns

Listening comprehension: Documentary film on waste management

Discussion: causes and consequences of global warming and world food crisis. How do these phenomena impact your country and Africa?

Week 5:

Grammar: passé simple/ logical connectors (reinforcement)

Written exercises: rephrasing sentences ...

Internet articles: free presentations and discussions

Reading comprehension/ Text: Polygamy

Student presentations:

- Talata Nder
- Dieumbeut Mboji (Queen of a thriving kingdom: The Walo)
- Lat Dior Diop (King of Cayor)
- Monument de la Renaissance africaine

Week 6:

Grammar: Passive voice

Invitation of Cheikh Anta Student. Projection of Borom Sarrett (Film by Sembene Ousmane. Debate

Debate on superstitions in Wolof and American cultures

Students' presentations on:

- Navetane
- Senegal à la coupe du monde football en 2002
- Mohamed Ndao Tyson /

Essay: write one-page long letter to family or friends and tell them about your experience / misadventures in Senegal

Week 7

Grammar: Review relative pronouns, tenses, logical connectors

Written and oral exams

Course evaluation

Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the expected due date, and students should be prepared to discuss these during respective class periods.

Print and additional textual resources to be used in instruction:

Local and regional newspapers and periodical sources

Comic strips

Local publications

Proverbs

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Student performance is evaluated by teachers at each class meeting. Lessons are planned and students regrouped according to learning pace and individual strengths and weaknesses. At the end of the semester, teachers will compose an evaluation for each student, considering both classroom performance, effort and the use of and improvement in language skills over the course of the class. Students will be evaluated on oral presentations, written assignments, and on the extent to which they try to use French both inside and outside the classroom. In addition, students will be given an oral ACTFL exam by certified testers to help in assessing progress. The final semester grade is determined by the academic director based on a combination of the criteria above.

Evaluation:

Homework assignments 25%

Quizzes and oral exams 25%

Class participation 25%

Final written exam 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+

64-66% D

Below 64 F

Class Participation

Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all language 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 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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