

Advanced French

FREN 3003-3503 (3 credits)

Senegal: French Language (Intermediate & Advanced)

This syllabus is representative of a typical 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 online course is primarily focused on enhancing student's oral proficiency through emphasis on skills of interaction and communication. Through the study of post-colonial texts, students enhance their skills in reading, composition and spoken French while learning about the dynamics of contemporary Senegalese society.

Language of Instruction

This course is taught entirely in French.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should have attained the following:

- Increased proficiency in French – i.e., if entry level is determined at “advanced low”, students successfully completing the course should achieve “advanced high”;
- The ability to identify local nuances of French verbal and written expressions in Senegal.
- The capacity to identify and demonstrate knowledge of important figures and their works within Senegal's and outside.
- The ability to demonstrate understanding of important issues, events and topics embedded in Senegalese francophone artistic productions.
- Competent handling of discussions abstractly, using precise vocabulary with proper intonation and the ability to demonstrate fluency to native speakers

Module 1: (12 hours)

Diving deep in the host culture

Session I: Introductions. Needs analysis. Written test

Session II: *Senegalese French and slang*

The language of debate

Session III: *Review tenses and functions. Exercise*

Assignments:

- 1) *Students give presentations on press articles and discuss the issues raised in the papers*
- 2) *Present simple of irregular verbs / passé compose*

- 3) *Debate on US and Sn Cultural values in a changing global context*
- 4) *Essay: Comment l'Afrique est-elle perçue aux Etats-Unis ? (une page)*

Module 2: (12 hours)

Civil society and social justice

Session I: Logical connectors: cause /conséquences

Session II: Subjonctif Présent

Session III: Use of prepositions (exercice)

/ use of en/ y (exercice)

Assignments:

- 1) *Students research and give presentations on*
 - *France dégage*
 - *Y en a marre*
 - *Aar li niou bokk*
 - *Raddho*
 - *Siggil jigen*
- 2) *Imparfait de l'indicatif / Plus que parfait (Exercise)*
- 3) *Reading Comprehension: texte number 1*
- 4) *Essay : les droits des minorités sont-ils respectés aux Etats-Unis ? Que fait la société civile américaine pour plus de justice raciale ?*

Module 3: (12 hours)

Security issues in the Sahel

Session1: Pronoms relatifs et interrogatifs

Session II: Reading comprehension: text number 2

Passé simple / Passé antérieur

Session III: Connecteurs logiques : contraste/ opposition

Imperative

Assignments:

- 1) *Students' presentation on :*
 - *Circulation des armes dans le Sahel*
 - *Conflit au Mali*
- 2) *Reading comprehension: text number 3*
- 3) *Essay : Que pensez-vous de la vente libre des armes aux Etats-Unis (une page)*

Module 4: (12 hours)

Climate change and socioeconomic challenges in the Sahel

Session I: Conditionnel présent/ conditionnel passé

Session II: Reformulations de phrases avec différents connecteurs logiques

Session III: Video film followed by discussions

Assignments:

- 1) *Students give presentations on:*
 - *The green wall project*
 - *Dams, cash crops and ecological impacts in Senegal River Valley*

- 4) 2) Reading comprehension : *text number 4*
 3) Essay: *La préservation de l'environnement est-elle une priorité en Amérique ?*

Module 5: (12 hours)
Rural exodus, Immigration and Racism

Session I: passive voice
Session II: Tense agreements with If clauses
Session III: Video film followed by discussions
 Assignments:

- 1) *Students research and give presentations on*
 - *Baol Baol*
 - *Barça Barsax*
 - *Modou Modou and Fatou Fatou*
 - *Immigrants in host countries (US/ Europe)*
 - *Reading comprehension: text number 5*
- 2) *Le mur à la frontière mexicaine est-il une solution durable contre le flux migratoire vers les Etats-Unis ? Expliquez (une page)*

Examinations:

The final exam includes
 1. *Reading comprehension exercise*
 2. *Test on grammar and conjugation,*
 3. *Essay*
Evaluations and good bye

Readings

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.

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 notified.

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, taking into account 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 use French both inside and outside the classroom.

Evaluation:

Oral presentation on selected work	30%
Analytical paper	30%
Quizzes and oral exams	30%
Participation	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

Students will receive grades on oral presentations and written work, as well as on the extent to which students make an effort to use the language outside the classroom. In addition, students will be given an oral exam for French by one or more of the trainers to assess progress. The final semester grade is determined by the language instructors in consultation with the program director based on a combination of the criteria above.

Class Participation

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

SIT Policies and Resources

Please refer to the [SIT Study Abroad Handbook](#) and the [Policies](#) section of the SIT website for all academic and student affairs policies. Students are accountable for complying with all published policies. Of particular relevance to this course are the policies regarding: academic integrity, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), research and ethics in field study and internships, late assignments, academic status, academic appeals, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and misconduct, and the student code of conduct.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook and SIT website for information on important resources and services provided through our central administration in Vermont, such as [Library resources and research support](#), [Disability Services](#), [Counseling Services](#), [Title IX information](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) resources.