

## Serbian I

SERB 1003 (3 credits)

### Serbia: Transitional Justice, Human Rights, and Memory Internship

*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 Objectives

- To gain beginners proficiency in spoken Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian
- To develop basic listening, comprehension, and communication skills
- To expose students to Latin and Cyrillic orthographies and basic regional variations of Croatian, Serbian, and Bosnian
- To use the language in everyday situations, as well as within the context of the demands of the Independent Study Project

#### Grammatical Content

- Alphabets: Latin and Cyrillic
- Personal and possessive pronouns
- Gender (masculine, feminine, neuter)
- Present tense
- Cases (basic concept and role of the case system in a language)
- Prepositions (relation between preposition and case)
- Past tense of regular and some irregular verbs
- Future tense
- Adjectives, adverbs
- Numerals

#### Topics:

- Social expressions (Excuse me, I am sorry...) / Everyday phrases and greetings
- Introducing yourself / family / friends
- Numbers / prices / years / time / days of the week / months
- Food and drinks (at the market / shop / restaurant)

- Seasons / weather
- Colors / animals / countries
- Describing everyday activities
- Local songs / proverbs / customs

## **Course Schedule**

Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

### **Week 1:**

Introduction: Slavic languages as part of Indo-European language family; Cyril and Methodius mission to the Slavs (9<sup>th</sup> century); B/H/S in Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empire; the history of standardization of the language in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia, Vienna Literary Agreement (1850) and the creation of Serbo-Croatian language; discuss socio-linguistic questions of the region of the former Yugoslavia.

Greetings and basic phrases – get ready to meet your homestay families.

### **Week 2:**

Writing systems – Latin and Cyrillic alphabets

Pronunciation, reading and transcription

Greetings and basic phrases - revision; useful everyday expressions

Numbers (introduction)

The verb “to be”, personal pronouns

### **Week 3:**

Gender (introduction)

Possessive pronouns

Present tense

Introducing yourself (Where do I come from, How old am I, Where do I live, What do I study etc.)

Asking basic questions using question words (when, where, who, how much...)

Preparation for the midterm exam

### **Week 4:**

Midterm written exam

Making sentences using modal verbs: likes and dislikes, possibility, obligation (I like to.../I do not like to...; I have to...)

Food and drink

Eating out (restaurants & cafes)

Days of the week, months of the year, seasons

### **Week 5:**

Past tense – introduction, practice

Plural of the nouns and adjectives

**Week 6:**

Future tense  
Telling time

**Week 7:**

Traditional proverbs  
General revision and preparation for the exams

**Week 8:**

Final written exam and oral exam

**Course Requirements**

Students are required to attend the course regularly, to participate in classroom activities and discussions, and to complete all homework.

**Student Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

Student Assessment

Students receive feedback from the instructor throughout the course. The language instructor and the Academic Director assign final grades jointly. Apart from Midterm and Final exams, students' vocabulary will be quizzed every week. Evaluation is a reflection of the student's proficiency, participation, engagement, and progress through the weeks of language instruction and during the remaining weeks of the course.

Requirements and expectations of students for successful completion of the course include:

Weekly vocabulary quizzes	20%
Midterm written exam	20%
Final written exam	25%
Oral Exam	25%
In class activities, homework, participation	10%

**Grading Scales and Criteria**

Grades are given both fairly and rigorously and in accordance with the system below. They will reflect a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, the ability to take into account and assimilate the Academic Director's and the teachers' advice in assessing the work done. An "A" letter grade reflects exceptional work, perfect combination of academic competences and personal research and engagement. In terms of class participation, an "A" grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all language class activities. A "B" letter grade reflects serious and methodical work as well as a substantial effort at achieving excellence in language. A "C" letter grade shows that work meets the requirements but needs more in-depth reflection and personal involvement. A "D" letter grade is insufficient and clearly reflects lack of work or serious deficiencies.

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

### **Program Expectations**

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.
- Storing Your Work: Keep several copies of your work as back up and keep one copy accessible to you through an online forum, such as an attachment in your email, the course learning management system, or cloud-based storage. This way your work will always be available to despite technical issues. Lost files, deleted drives, or computer crashes are not excuses for late, missing work.
- Personal Technology Use: Cell phones and other personal electronics can be used for taking notes and other class activities. Off-task usage is not acceptable. You may be marked as absent for habitually using them for something other than classroom activities.
- Course Communication: Course documents and assignments will be posted on the learning management system, Canvas. Although the course calendar provides a broad overview and the general sequence of work and assignments for the course, what we accomplish in class will vary, and revisions to the calendar will be posted at the course site. You will need to check the course site regularly. You are responsible for letting me know about any network-related problems that prevent you from accessing or submitting assignments.
- Content Considerations: Some texts and activities you will encounter in this course delve into sensitive topics that may be emotionally and intellectually challenging. Our classroom is a space where we can engage with challenging ideas, question

assumptions, and navigate difficult topics with respect and maturity. As possible, I will flag content and activities that are especially graphic or intense, so we are prepared to address them soberly and sensitively. If you are struggling to keep up with the work or participate in the course because of the nature of the content and activities, you should speak with me and/or seek help from counseling services.

- Classroom recording policy: To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

### **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.