

Serbian III

SERB 3003 (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 strong proficiency in spoken Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian
- To use the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations, as well as within the context of the demands of the Independent Study Project.
- To expand reading comprehension to the extent of reading texts in standard BCS
- To get familiar and understand the culture in which language is used

Grammatical Content

Please note: grammatical content will be modified depending on specific needs of students.

- Perfect/imperfect verbs; relation between aspect and tenses
- Aorist tense
- Participles; past and present verbal adverbs
- Existential and subjectless sentences; sentences with logical subject
- Relative clauses
- Passive voice
- Word order; clitic placement

Topics:

- Reading texts in standard language
- Understanding metaphorical meanings of already familiar words
- Expressing opinion on complex topics that require strong argumentation
- Understanding proverbs, sayings, and jokes

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 (9th 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.

Week 2:

Cyrilic script - comprehensive reading and writing of larger amount of text
Text about origin of certain traditional customs in the region
Discussion topic: Traditions, customs, beliefs in this part of the world

Week 3:

Meša Selimović, "Tvrđava" – excerpt; the best quotes about an unconditional love
Reading, comprehension, and discussion about the material

Week 4:

Aleksandar Hemon, "Potomstvo po prvi put u Sarajevu"
Discuss the topic of returning to the place of birth after war: a phenomenon experienced by Hemon and many other writers from former Yugoslavia who live, write, and publish abroad
Ijekavian vs. ekavian version of BHS

Week 5:

Discussion topic: impressions from Bosnia
Aleksandar Hemon, „Izveštaj o posjeti Potomstva Sarajevu“
Second part of the same story, after the study visit to Bosnia

Week 6:

Discussion topic: village, suburb, or a city center?
Which space provides the quality of life?
Differences between different countries – living in the countryside in US and in the Balkans

Week 7:

Phrases and proverbs, equivalent proverbs in English language
Exercise in translation from B/H/S to English

Week 8:

Discussion topic: overall impressions from the Balkans
Written Exam – essay/composition & 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 instructors throughout the course. The language instructor and the Academic Director assign final grades jointly. 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:

Final written exam	30%
Oral exam	40%
Writing assignment 1	15%
Writing assignment 2	15%

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.