

Beginning French I FREN-1003 (3 credits)

Switzerland: Banking, Finance, and Social Responsibility

This syllabus is representative of 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 course seeks to provide students with broader access to the host culture and enable participation in daily social life. Students are introduced to basic concepts and principles of grammar, developing the ability to function easily in predictable daily social situations and maintain basic face-to-face conversations. With a focus on communicative competence and linguistic functional ability, the lessons cover grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation as well as skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Instructors adapt the content of the courses to students' needs in order to achieve much greater fluency in a short period of time.

Instructors use a wide variety of materials and exercises, including authentic recorded material, role-plays, newspapers, and magazines, in addition to a French learning method proposed by the language school where classes take place. Through a homestay residence in a French-speaking town or village, each student becomes a member of a family and shares in its daily life. This opportunity facilitates cultural immersion and helps develop language skills further.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- communicate in simple and routine task
- ask and answer simple questions on familiar topics
- handle very short social exchanges
- read short, simple texts
- understand short, simple personal letters
- write short notes and messages such as postcards, emails, etc.

Language of Instruction

This course is conducted entirely in French.

Instructional Methods

SIT's teaching and learning philosophy is grounded in the experiential learning theory developed by Kolb (1984; 2015) and informed by various scholars, such as Dewey, Piaget, Lewin, among others. Experiential learning theory recognizes that learning is an active process

that is not confined to the formal curriculum; “knowledge is created through the transformation of experience” (Kolb, 2015, p. 49). Learning involves both content and process. Learning is holistic and happens through various life experiences upon which students draw to generate new ways of knowing and being. Learning involves a community and is a lifelong endeavor. Learning is transformational. The suggested four step-cycle of a *concrete experience, reflective observation, abstract conceptualization, and active experimentation* embedded in the experiential learning model is not linear and might not always happen in that specific order, as any learning is highly context dependent. These stages of taking part in a shared experience; reflecting on that experience by describing and interpreting it; challenging their own assumptions and beliefs to generate new knowledge; and ultimately applying new knowledge, awareness, skills, and attitudes in a variety of situations and contexts are important for students to engage in to become empowered lifelong learners.

Required Texts

Grammaire progressive du français, Débutant, CLE international, ISBN 209033858-X

Latitude parcours A1, Didier, ISBN 978-2-278-062904

Exercices de vocabulaire en contexte, Intermédiaire, Hachette *Français langue étrangère*, ISBN 201155153-6

Les exercices de grammaire, niveau A1, Hachette *Français langue étrangère*, ISBN 978-2-01-155432-1

Vocabulaire illustré, Débutant, Hachette *Français langue étrangère*, ISBN 978-2-01-019861-8

Communication progressive du français, Débutant, CLE international, ISBN 9782090-333-060

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments:

- Written exam: grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production. Questions are multiple choice and short answer.
- Oral exam: 10-minute exam with two French teachers, assessing fluency, vocabulary, use of structures learned in class, and improvement.
- In-class quizzes: short quizzes corresponding to topics studied in class.
- Homework: completion of exercises.
- Participation: questions and participation in oral exercises, motivation.

Assessment

Written exam	40%
Oral exam	30%
In-class quizzes	10%
Homework	10%
Participation	10%

Attendance and Participation

Due to the nature of SIT Study Abroad programs, and the importance of student and instructor contributions in each and every class session, attendance at all classes and for all program excursions is required. Criteria for evaluation of student performance include attendance and

participation in program activities. Students must fully participate in all program components and courses. Students may not voluntarily opt out of required program activities. Valid reasons for absence – such as illness – must be discussed with the academic director or other designated staff person. Absences impact academic performance, may impact grades, and could result in dismissal from the program.

Late Assignments

SIT Study Abroad programs integrate traditional classroom lectures and discussion with field-based experiences, site visits and debriefs. The curriculum is designed to build on itself and progress to the culmination (projects, ISP, case studies, internship, etc.). It is critical that students complete assignments in a timely manner to continue to benefit from the sequences in assignments, reflections and experiences throughout the program.

Example: Students may request a justified extension for one paper/assignment during the semester. Requests must be made in writing and at least 12 hours before the posted due date and time. If reason for request is accepted, an extension of up to one week may be granted at that time. Any further requests for extensions will not be granted. Students who fail to submit the assignment within the extension period will receive an 'F' for the assignment.

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

Program Expectations

- Show up prepared. Be on time; have your homework completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class.
- Comply with academic integrity policies as specified in the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook: <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/documents/studyabroad/Student-Handbook.pdf>
- Respect differences of opinion (those of classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits, etc.). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please note that the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may be modified by the academic director in order to better suit the needs of the course and its participants. Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, students will be promptly notified.

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.

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*

Students will attend French classes three afternoon sessions/week during the first eight weeks of the program. Classes are attended by SIT students only. Students will regularly be assigned homework to complement and practice what has been studied in class.