

Intermediate French II

FREN 2503 (3 credits)

Switzerland: Banking, Finance, and Social Responsibility

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 course seeks to provide students with a broader access to the host culture and enable them to participate in daily social life. Developing conversation and comprehension skills enhances students' interactive research throughout the semester. By the end of the course, students should be able to function easily in discussions relating to their personal interests.

This course focuses on communicative competence and linguistic functional ability. The lessons cover grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation as well as skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Teachers adapt the content of the courses to students' needs in order to achieve much greater fluency in a short period of time.

Teachers use a wide variety of materials and exercises including authentic recorded material, role-plays, and newspapers and magazines, in addition to a French grammar book proposed by the language school where classes take place.

Through a homestay 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.

The course is built on the knowledge students already have.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Deal with most situations likely to arise while traveling in an area where the language is spoken and to describe experiences and events.
- Give precise explanations for opinions or plans, or narrate a story.
- Understand the main point of slow and clear radio or TV programs on current affairs or topics of personal interest and to read simple press articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems.

- Write personal letters describing experiences and impressions, as well as small essays expressing a particular point of view.

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, Niveau intermédiaire, CLE International, 978-209-038124-5

Objectif Diplomatie, Niveau A1 / A2, Hachette, 978-2-01-155800-8

Vocabulaire progressif du Français, Niveau avancé, CLE International, 9-782090-338768

Latitudes A1 / A2, Didier, 978-2-278-06249-2

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

Written Exam (40%)

Grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production. Questions are multiple choice, short answer, and open-ended.

Oral Exam (30%)

The Oral Exam is a 10-minute exam with two French teachers, assessing fluency, vocabulary, use of structures learned in class, ability to answer unprepared questions, and improvement.

Oral Presentation (10%)

The Oral Presentation will be graded on fluency, content, grammar, and vocabulary.

Homework (10%)

Homework assignments will be graded on fluency, content, grammar, and vocabulary.

Participation (10%)

Attendance, punctuality, active involvement in discussions, and completion of reading assignments.

Grading Scale

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 directors 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*

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