

Advanced French I FREN-3003 (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 aims to provide students with broader access to the host culture and enhance participation in daily social life. Students develop their conversation and comprehension skills, strengthening their interactive research. By the end of the course, students should be able to participate in discussions relating to particular 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. Instructors adapt the content of the courses to students' needs in order to achieve a much greater fluency in a short period of time.

Building off skills that students already have, instructors 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 the French-speaking Canton of Vaud, 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:

- Interact with natives with fluency and spontaneity.
- Take an active part in discussions in familiar contexts, as well as present descriptions on a wide range of subjects of personal interest and to explain a viewpoint on a topical issue.
- Understand the main point of TV news, films, and current affairs programs and to read a wide range of articles and reports concerned with contemporary issues.

- Write clear text on subjects of academic context and personal interest as well as to write letters to highlight the significance of events and experiences.

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

Exercices de grammaire en contexte, Niveau avancé, Hachette, ISBN 978-2-01-155170-2
 Grammaire progressive du français, Niveau intermédiaire, CLE international, ISBN 978-209-038124-5

Le nouvel Edito B2, Didier, ISBN 978-3-12-529345-8

La Suisse en jeu, Association français en jeu, Editions Lep ch, ISBN 978-2-606-01400-1

DELFB1 200 activités, CLE international-ISBN 978-2-09-035230-6

Confédération suisse, votations populaires, explications du Conseil fédéral - publié par le Chancellerie Fédérale

Various Swiss/French newspapers

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

1) Written Exam (40%)

The written exam includes grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production. Multiple choice, short answer, and open-ended questions.

2) Oral Exam (30%)

The Oral Exam 10-minute exam with two French teachers. Student will be asked to choose a press article, present it, discuss it, and answer questions. Fluency, vocabulary, use of

structures learned in class, ability to answer improvised questions, and improvement will be assessed.

Oral Presentation 20%

The oral presentation is a 10-minute presentation with a handout for the group. Fluency, structure, grammar and vocabulary, content, and ability to open a debate will be assessed.

Homework and Participation (10%)

Homework assignments (exercises and short essays), relevant participation in debates, motivation.

Assessment

Written exam	40%
Oral exam	30%
Oral presentation	20%
Homework and participation	10%

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 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.

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.