

Advanced Vietnamese VIET 3003-3503 (3 credits)

Vietnam: Culture, Social Change and Development

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 is designed for students who have already achieved an intermediate competence in Vietnamese and are ready to begin to engage with materials meant for a native audience. Students are thus enabled to enrich all aspects of their experience abroad by functioning in the host language during field methods exercises, and when interacting with homestay families and local contacts. Students in this course attempt to move beyond simple discussions to more complex and nuanced interactions. Speaking practice sessions are less structured than those of the lower-level classes and focus on the spontaneous production of lengthier sentences. Writing practice targets structured paragraph production, and reading practice introduces texts meant for native speakers.

Classes and field-based language activities are taught by qualified, native-speaking language teachers at the University of Economics and Vietnam-American Association in Ho Chi Minh City. Students are placed into the appropriate level based on in-country estimated oral proficiency interviews and reading/written tests. By strengthening students' knowledge of upper-level Vietnamese sentence patterns and vocabulary, focusing on specific topics of interest to the students and providing the students necessary skills to communicate their opinions about the topics effectively, students are able to apply their language skills during educational excursions and conduct Independent Study Projects effectively.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Achieve a solid foundation in conversational Vietnamese
- Become well-versed in basic pronunciation and grammatical rules of Vietnamese
- Begin to move away from short conversational expression, and towards the production of longer, more complex sentences about academic topics.

- Speak elements of colloquial Vietnamese language (sland, expression, etc.) used by ordinary native speakers
- Practice engaging in fluid conversations with native speakers, expressing their viewpoints with relative accuracy and description;
- Gain a basic foundation in Vietnamese linguistics;
- Further their knowledge of the factors influencing contemporary Vietnamese society;
- Read and discuss glossed selections from local newspapers and magazines, and modified literary excerpts;
- Write various short essays to describing their learning experiences in Vietnam

Language of Instruction

This course is taught in Vietnamese and students will be taught by language instructors who are fully fluent in English. Student placement by language level is determined upon arrival.

Instructional Methods

Instruction consists of 40 hours of formal classes spread over a 6-week period in Ho Chi Minh City. Various teaching methods are employed, including in-class discussion on Vietnamese and American subjects, recitations for aural comprehension, and grammar exercises. Homework is assigned daily. Students have opportunities to practice with one language tutor and local student volunteers every week, at least two hours per week. Role-plays and social activities with the instructors are also used as opportunities for learning.

An additional 10 hours of instruction and guided field practice are scheduled during excursions to the Mekong Delta and Da Lat Excursion and through the homestay period. These practicum classes take full advantage of the local environment, requiring students to practice their skills with native speakers. Some practicum assignments require students to interview locals about topics of particular interest. Students are then asked to report on excursion assignments upon returning to the classroom in Ho Chi Minh City.

Required Texts

Nguyen Van Hue et al. (2008). *Giao Trinh Tieng Viet Cho Nguoi Nuoc Ngoai. Tap 4 (VLS 4)*. Ho Chi Minh National University Publisher.

Nguyen Viet Huong. (2001). *Thuc hanh Tieng Viet. Level D*. Hanoi National University Publisher.

Collections of advanced readings. Bai Doc Tieng Viet Nang Cao. (2004). Hanoi National University Publisher.

Various articles, video clips, and web sources as assigned

Assignments and Evaluation

Instructors evaluate student performance based on observation, written exercises, quizzes, and exams given throughout the course. Final grades are assigned by the Academic Director in consultation with the language instructor on the basis of the instructor's evaluation, the student's own self-evaluation, and the Academic Director's observation of the student's participation in class and their efforts to use the language outside of the classroom.

Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

Daily Class Participation (10%)

Students are encouraged to stay motivated, active, and maintain their involvement in class activities during the course. Students are evaluated based on their constant involvement and ability to engage in a variety of classroom and weekly outdoor activities during the course. They are expected to complete 80%-90% of the total work including 4 weekly outdoor activities. Attendance is mandatory; failure to attend class or repeated late arrival to class will impact the grade in the course. See Attendance section below for more details.

Daily Homework (20%)

Students are expected to do weekly readings and writings following the three main focuses: narrative, descriptive, and persuasive (argumentative) in well-organized paragraphs. At this level, speed is another goal for daily homework. Students are encouraged to increase the speed of their reading, being able to comprehend both the main ideas and the supporting detail of the readings. The completion of 80% to 90% of 6 readings and 6 writing assignments is required to maintain consistent progress.

Field Trip Assignments (20%)

Field trip assignments are designed to advance speaking skills to accumulate experience in the field. There are 2 assignments (One in Cu Chi and One in Mekong Delta). Students can choose the activities with topics given by lecturers or suggest new ones. During the field trips, students are accessible to some resources in the field to collect information for the assignments. Students are expected to use the resources effectively in efficient time. After

each field trip, students can check up with lecturers in terms of linguistic issues and other necessary preparation to present information. Students present information in front of a small group of Vietnamese Language Volunteers and their peers. Lecturers give final feedback.

Two Language Tests: First Test (25%) and Second Test (25%):

The two main tests navigate students' concentration on both academic and real-life contexts. These two tests include familiar and unfamiliar topics in reading and speaking skills. The tests are effective tools to check if students have made improvements on their weaknesses noted from homework, field trip assignments and regular feedback from lecturers. In addition to technical skills of language study, students are expected to develop cultural competence during the course. Therefore, the two main tests are reflections of students' performance and proficiency in academic and experiential aspects.

The two main tests include both written and oral parts. The written test lasts for 90 minutes and the oral test lasts between 10 and 15 minutes for each student.

Oral Proficiency Interview

Final oral proficiency interviews are conducted toward the end of the semester to provide a measurement of students' overall linguistic progress. Thus, the course grade provides an assessment of students' performance in meeting the requirements.

Assessment

Daily class participation	10%
Daily homework	20%
Field Trip Assignments	20%
First test	25%
Second test	25%

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is mandatory. Absences are penalized by reducing the language grade, except for illness cases, when the student is expected to provide a medical certificate. In addition, two repeated and unjustified delays are also counted as an absence and may impact the student's participation grade.

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

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 assignments completed and points in mind for clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule and according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. Teachers are highly respected in Vietnam. Your polite and engaged behavior is expected.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (classmates', teachers'). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

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*

There is a minimum of 2.5 contact hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, except during excursions.

Classes are scheduled accordingly:

9:00-10:00: Listening and Speaking

10:00-10:30: Grammar and comprehension

10:30-11:30: Exercises on reading and writing

Sample Course Topics

Approximately six hours is dedicated to each of seven topics. Students read various newspaper articles per unit and watch Vietnamese films. Lesson topics include:

- Dialects
- Population demographic and challenges
- Vietnamese folklore
- Education in Vietnam
- Gender and Families
- Religion and Belief
- Economics

Model Conversational, Reading and Writing Topics

- Describing familial relationships and making friends
- Describing the differences and similarity
- Making plans
- Commanding
- Talking about activities
- Talking about traveling
- How to avoid misunderstanding communicate efficiently with people
- Admissions of error
- Exchanging viewpoints
- Telling a story
- Talking about entertainment, festivals, costumes cooking and clothes
- Describing feelings
- Using respect words
- Writing simple essays on specific selected topics