

Beginning French I

FREN-1003 (3 credits)

Switzerland: Global Health and Development Policy

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.

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, field exercises, newspapers and magazines, in addition to a French learning method proposed by the language school where classes take place.

Through a homestay residence 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

The *Beginning French I* course comprises 45 hours of instruction (3 credits). Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Implement vocabulary and pronunciation skills by verbally communicating a simple and routine task
- Demonstrate basic language comprehension by asking and answering simple questions on familiar topics
- Apply basic grammar and vocabulary by handling very short social exchanges
- Comprehend written short, simple texts
- Prepare 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.

Course Schedule:

Students will attend French classes two to three afternoons a week during 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.

Bibliography:

- *Cosmopolite 1 A1*, Hachette, ISBN 9782014015973
- *Grammaire progressive du français, Débutant*, CLE international, ISBN 209033858-X
- *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

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments:

1. Written exam: Grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production; questions are multiple choice and short answer
2. Oral exam: 10-minute exam with 2 French teachers, assessing fluency, vocabulary, use of structures learned in class, improvement
3. In-class quizzes: short quizzes corresponding to topics studied in class

4. Homework: completion of exercises
5. Participation : questions and participation in oral exercises, motivation

Assessment:

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

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

Expectations and Policies

- 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.

Academic Policies: SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the **SIT Study Abroad Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.

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.