

## **Beginning French II** FREN-1503 (3 credits)

### **Switzerland: International Studies and Multilateral Diplomacy**

*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 participation in daily social life. Students will develop their conversation and comprehension skills, so that they will be able to easily function in daily social situations and maintain 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 grammar book proposed by the language school where classes take place.

Through a home stay 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**

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

- Implement vocabulary and pronunciation skills by verbally interacting in a simple way in situations that students may encounter while living in a French-speaking country (describe their family, the place where they live, their professional activity and hobbies).
- Demonstrate the ability to enter conversations, if people speak slowly and use basic vocabulary.
- Comprehend the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered.
- Prepare simple texts (for instance thank you letters, descriptive texts)

#### **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

- *Cosmopolite 1 A1*, Hachette, ISBN 9782014015973
- *Objectif Diplomatie : Le français des relations internationales et européennes A1/A2*. Paris : Hachette. ISBN 201155800X
- *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

## 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.

*\*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*

## Assignments and Evaluation

### Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

- 1) Written exam (40%)

Grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production; questions are multiple choice and short answer

2) Oral exam (30%)

10-minute exam with 2 French teachers, assessing fluency, vocabulary, use of structures learned in class, improvement.

3) In-class quizzes (10%)

Short quizzes corresponding to topics studied in class.

4) Homework (10%)

Completion of exercises.

5) Participation (10%)

This includes active involvement in lectures, readings, discussions and excursions using the following criteria:

- Attendance - promptness to class and positive presence in class.
- Active Listening - paying attention in class and during field excursions, asking appropriate questions, showing interest and enthusiasm (this includes body language), entertaining contradictory perspectives, taking notes.
- Involvement in Class Discussions - either in small or large groups, sharing knowledge. This means challenging yourself to speak up if you usually don't, and also means allowing others to speak if you are a person who tends to dominate class discussions.
- Group Accountability – positive participation in the group during field excursions and classes; not keeping others waiting.
- Displaying Respect – culturally appropriate interaction with hosts, SIT program staff, SIT lecturers and communities.]

### 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 the reason for the 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 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.
- 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.

## **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](#), [Accessibility Services](#), [Counseling Services](#), [Title IX information](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) resources.