

Advanced French I

FREN-3003 (3 credits)

Switzerland: Choose Your Track—Wildlife, Food Systems, Cities OR French Culture

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, field visits, 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

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

- Demonstrate the ability to interact with natives with fluency and spontaneity
- Present descriptions on a wide range of subjects of personal interest
- Explain a viewpoint on a topical issue in a clear and well-structured manner
- Comprehend the main points of TV news, films and current affairs programs

- Demonstrate the ability to understand a wide range of written articles and reports concerned with contemporary issues, and to grasp implicit content.
- Write clear, well-structured and articulated texts on subjects of academic context and personal interest, as well as 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.

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.

Required Texts:

- *Cosmopolite 3 B1*, Hachette, ISBN 9782015135472
- *Le nouvel Edito B2*, Didier, ISBN 978-3-12-529345-8
- *Grammaire progressive du français, Niveau intermédiaire*, CLE international, ISBN 978-209-038124-5
- *Exercices de grammaire en contexte, Niveau avancé*, Hachette, ISBN 978-2-01-155170-2
- *La Suisse en jeu*, Association français en jeu, Editions Lep ch, ISBN 978-2-606-01400-1
- DELF B1 200 activities, CLE international-ISBN 978-2-09-035230-6
- Various Swiss/French newspapers

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment Description and Grading Criteria:

1. Written exam: grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production. Multiple choice, short answer, and open-ended questions
2. 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. Will be assessed: fluency, vocabulary, use of structures learned in class, ability to answer improvised questions, and improvement
3. Oral presentation: 10-minute presentation with a handout for the group. Student will be assessed on fluency, structure, grammar and vocabulary, content, and ability to open a debate
4. Homework and participation: 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

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.

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.

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.