

Cameroon

Social Pluralism and Development

Examine social, economic, and political development patterns in one of West Africa's most ethnically and geographically diverse countries.

Coursework

Social Pluralism and Development Seminar

AFRS 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted primarily in French with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course explores issues of social change and development in Cameroon. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the University of Dschang, the Center for Development and Research of Ngaoundéré, the University of Yaoundé, and a microfinance institution based in Yaoundé.

Seminar topics typically include:

History

This unit serves as background knowledge to understanding the political, economic, and social realities of Cameroonian society both from historical and contemporary perspectives.

Development Theories and Approaches

Students examine different theories and approaches to development using Cameroon as a case study. They also explore development organizations' modalities of development practice and the efficacy of international aid.

Gender

This unit scrutinizes the roles and places of women and men in Cameroonian society. It also explores the gap that exists between modern and traditional roles resulting from factors such as education and financial independence.

Minorities

Two case studies illustrate issues of minority groups in Cameroon. The first case study examines the "place" of the Anglophone in Cameroon and the political, social, and cultural challenges facing Anglophones. The second case study explores the culture and traditions of the Pygmies and where they are in the context of development.

Art, Tradition, and Cultural Expression

This unit examines the history of the Bamilékés and traditional structures like the Chefferies, as well as the similarities between the Chefferie

system and "African" democracy. It also examines Bamiléké traditional ceremonies such as those for marriage, widowhood, burial, and initiations into manhood and womanhood.

Islam and Traditional Power in the Grand North

This unit examines Islam as practiced in the Grand North of Cameroon and its impact on the people. It also examines the conflicts that arise between religious Koranic education and nonreligious governmental education and the interaction of traditional authorities, political power, and modernity.

Educational Excursions

The program typically includes two or more visits to northern, northwestern (Anglophone), coastal, southern, and western Cameroon. These excursions give students a variety of perspectives on the country by examining its varied regions and peoples.

French for Development Studies

FREN 2000-3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

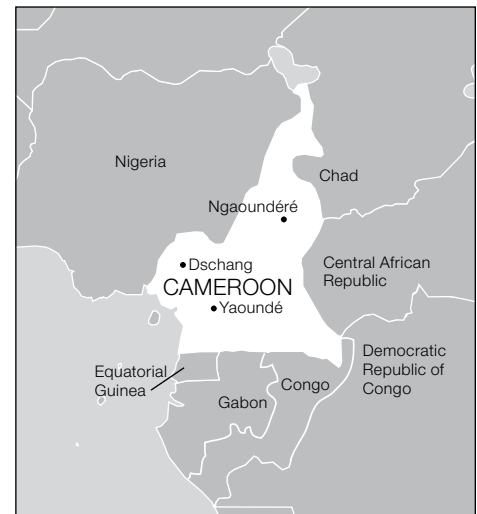
This language course focuses on the acquisition of French lexicon used in the area of development and social change. In addition to enhancing students' vocabulary and communication skills, this course equips students with the language tools needed to work with nongovernmental organizations and grassroots associations.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a field journal.

AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Yaoundé

Language Study French

Homestays Yaoundé, 5 weeks;
Ngaoundéré, 2 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay West province,
2 weeks

Other Accommodations Hostels, private
homes, and small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites Three recent semesters of
college-level French or equivalent and the
ability to follow coursework in French, as
assessed by SIT.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Yaoundé or in another approved location appropriate to the project in Cameroon.

Sample topic areas: education in a Cameroonian village; traditional healing; bilingualism and the media; the *makossa* style of music; oral history of the Bamiléké people; a women's village cooperative; influence of oil production on Cameroonian economy and society.

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester.

Please visit www.sit.edu/CMR for details.