

# Madagascar

## National Identity and Social Change

Explore issues of identity and political and socioeconomic transition in the context of Madagascar's remarkable ethnic and geographic diversity.

## Coursework

### National Identity and Social Change Seminar

AFRS 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English and French, with required readings in English and optional readings in French. Assignments may be completed in English or French. Relevant field-based activities and educational excursions complement the classroom-based lectures and discussions. The course takes a holistic approach to understanding the roles of geography, history, ethnicity, language, religion, politics, and economics in shaping the Malagasy identity. Lecturers include faculty from the University of Antananarivo, and other program partners.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *Sociological Perspectives*

Ethnicity and ethnic identity; family and kinship; religion; veneration of *razana* (the ancestors); ancestral homelands; gender roles; cultural importance of cattle; physical and social geography; traditional values and global influences in society; verbal arts (including folklore, proverbs, and speechmaking); music and dance.

#### *History and Politics*

Origins of the Malagasy; early kingdoms; colonial rule; independence; contemporary history; democracy and elections; political parties; administration; good governance; political crises; foreign relations.

#### *Sustainable Development and Social Change*

Social development; education; public health; roles of women in development; agriculture; formal and informal sectors of the economy; role of foreign investment; impact of globalization; poverty alleviation programs.

#### *Educational Excursions*

Excursions to locations across Madagascar are essential to providing a more complete representation of the country's many layers of diversity, including the country's ethnic, geographic, and ecological landscapes. The

program typically includes excursions to eastern and northwestern Madagascar, including Andasibe and Ankarafantsika national parks. Students also spend a week in rural areas of the Bongolava region in the central highlands.

### Intensive Language Study: French

FREN 2000–3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

A communicative approach to language learning with emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom and field-based instruction. Following in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in intermediate and advanced classes. Further language practice occurs during homestays, lectures, and field visits.

### Intensive Language Study: Malagasy

MALA 1000 / 3 credits / 45 hours

Emphasis on beginning speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field-based instruction. Formal instruction is augmented by language practice with host families during homestays.

### Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

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

### Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in any region of Madagascar based on program approval. **Sample topic**

## AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Antananarivo

**Language Study** French, Malagasy

**Homestays** Antananarivo, 4 weeks; Mahajanga, 2 weeks

**Rural Visit/Homestay** Tsiroanomandidy, 1 week

**Other Accommodations** Hotels, hostels, private homes, educational institutions

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

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

**areas:** democracy and elections; cyclical nature of political crises; role of *fady* (taboo) in Malagasy culture; family planning on the village level; women's associations in rural development; park management and local populations; prenatal healthcare in rural areas; malaria prevention and treatment; language teaching in primary and secondary education; community radio as a means of communication; music and dance as expressions of cultural identity.

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

Please visit [www.sit.edu/MGR](http://www.sit.edu/MGR) for details.