Intensive Language Study: Intermediate Kiswahili

SWAH 2000-2500 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Kenya: Urbanization, Health, and Human Rights

Course Description
This course is designed to further develop student proficiency and communication in the Swahili language – Kiswahili. While emphasis is primarily upon oral comprehension and conversation (i.e., listening and speaking), reading and writing are highlighted as crucial to the reinforcement of those skills. In addition, the course is designed not only to help students acquire Kiswahili, but also to learn attendant cultural aspects of Kenya. Cultural awareness is built into the course via folk tales and lectures and is also introduced and reinforced through field exercises, educational excursions, and the homestay experience.

Instructors use situational dialogues, folk tales and songs to teach the students new vocabulary and grammar rules. Students explore topics such as traveling, relationships, ceremonies, speaking about one’s career, biography/autobiography and functions of speech. At the Intermediate level, the course is designed to give students more in-depth cultural background via discussions of everyday life and contemporary issues, while students master more advanced language skills.

Course Objectives
Intensive Intermediate Kiswahili encompasses 45 class hours (3 credits). Its main objectives are to:

- Improve proficiency in spoken and written Kiswahili;
- Further prepare students for daily social interactions – in Kiswahili – with Kenyans and other Kiswahili speakers;
- Increase use of the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations, as well as within the context of the demands of the Independent Study Project;
- Deepen insights in the role of Kiswahili within East African life and cultures.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate an improved ability to speak, understand, read, and write Kiswahili, enabling students to handle basic daily tasks and interactions with others (culturally

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appropriate greetings, introductions, market interactions, relating everyday experiences, asking directions, etc.)

- Develop an expanded knowledge of Kenyan cultural practices through Kiswahili, including a familiarity with culturally appropriate behavior associated with language use in a variety of contexts;
- Exhibit an improved capacity to function independently in Kenya through the knowledge of a local language.

In addition, students should be able to complete the following linguistic tasks:

- Follow specific instructions
- Engage in social interactions with Kenyans
- Briefly discuss familiar subjects
- Talk about his/her life
- Describe the safari from home to Kenya, or any safari
- Buy tickets using public means, i.e., for public transport, etc.
- Talk about the population of the two countries
- Locate objects and describe them
- Give and ask for directions
- Buy items in the market
- Talk on phone
- Order food in a local restaurant

PLEASE NOTE: Intermediate students also perform tasks performed by beginners.

Language Levels and Placement
Non-beginner participants are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in Kenya.

Course Requirements

Readings
Students are responsible for all required readings and should be prepared to bring them to bear on class discussions.

Required Texts
The program will provide students with Kiswahili handbook prepared by SIT’s Kiswahili language faculty containing lessons and assignments specific to the Intensive Kiswahili course. In addition, students should bring, or obtain in Kenya, an English/Swahili-Swahili/English dictionary to assist in classes and homestays.

Field Exercises
Through field assignments, students enrich their classroom learning experience and their ability to function in real life language situations, assimilate everyday life issues, and immerse themselves in the host culture. Field assignments are done both individually and in groups. Field assignments may include visits to the following places:

- Markets: to practice bargaining skills and have contact with Kenyans
- Cafés and restaurants: to gain experience ordering food and drink
- Museums and monuments: to learn about historical sites and handicrafts

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In addition to field exercises, students will have intensive Swahili classes for 3.5 hours per day during a two-week rural homestay.

**PLEASE NOTE:** COURSE CONTENTS, LECTURERS, AND READINGS MAY BE MODIFIED AS NEEDED. SHOULD ANY CHANGE OF CLASS TOPICS OR LECTURERS BE NECESSARY, STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED.

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Proficiency Exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor Evaluation</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Usage</td>
<td>10%</td>
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**Oral Proficiency Exam:** At the end of the intensive language period, students will be given an oral proficiency exam to test their language skills. The exam consists of a brief oral interview that is designed to evaluate student speaking abilities and comprehension of spoken Kiswahili.

**Instructor Evaluation:** The language grade also reflects the Kiswahili Instructor’s evaluation of student grammar, vocabulary, accent, and class participation (including tardiness, absences, comportment, and active engagement in class).

**Language Usage:** The final 10% of the grade is a reflection of student use of Kiswahili during fieldtrips, in homestay, and during general interactions throughout the program.

**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

**Student Expectations**

**Class Participation**
Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Swahili language lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. An absent student is responsible for contacting the instructor, the tutor, and/or fellow students to be prepared for the assignments s/he missed and those scheduled for the next class.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the program dossier given to you at orientation.

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