Course Syllabus

Intensive Language Study: Beginning Kiswahili

SWAH 1000-1500 (4 Credits, 60 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Tanzania: Wildlife Conservation & Political Ecology

Course Description
This beginning language course is designed to prepare students for daily social and academic demands and to provide access into the Tanzanian host culture. Students are thus enabled to enrich all aspects of their experience abroad through greater ability to function in the host language in lectures, during field methods exercises, while conducting fieldwork for the Independent Study Project, and when interacting with homestay families and local contacts. Classes and field-based language activities are taught by native-speaking Kiswahili teachers using oral proficiency-based methods. Students are placed into appropriate language courses based on in-country oral proficiency interviews.

Kiswahili training, initiated during orientation, is continued and completed in the village of Bangata, just outside Arusha at the foot of Mt. Meru. Students receive a total of 60+ hours of formal in-class instruction, not including testing periods, assignments, and individual tutoring.

Course Objectives
Intensive Beginning Kiswahili encompasses 60 class hours (4 credits). Its main objectives are:
- To improve proficiency in spoken and written Kiswahili;
- To use the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations, as well as within the context of the demands of the Independent Study Project; and
- To acquire insight into the role of Kiswahili within East African life and culture.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students will have the ability to:
- Demonstrate functional proficiency in spoken Kiswahili, Tanzania’s national language, as the primary tool needed for entry into Tanzania’s many cultures;
- Utilize strong listening comprehension, performance and interpersonal communication skills; and
- Apply language confidently and effectively in everyday situations, and extend the usage within the context and demands of the Independent Study Project.

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 Requirements**
Students are required to participate in all instructional activities, which include an average of 4 hours of daily formal classroom training during the Bangata homestay. Students are further encouraged to use Kiswahili in appropriate non-instructional settings, such as the village homestay in Bangata, and in daily encounters with the host society (e.g., shopping, restaurants, games).

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

**Required Texts**
The program language teachers will provide students with reading materials and assignments throughout the Intensive Intermediate Kiswahili course. In addition, students should bring, or obtain in Tanzania, an English/Kiswahili-Kiswahili/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 Tanzanians
- Cafés and restaurants: to rehearse how to order food and drink
- Museums and monuments: to learn about historical sites and handicrafts

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**
Evaluation is based on the language instructors’ assessment of the student’s proficiency in Kiswahili and participation in formal instruction, together with the Academic Directors’ evaluation of proficiency and efforts to use Kiswahili outside the classroom. Final grades are assigned by the Academic Director in conjunction with the language coordinator.

**Intensive Language Study: Beginning Kiswahili Assignments**
Timely completion of all language assignments is expected. Class attendance is mandatory. Students are evaluated on preparedness and participation in class and in field assignments. Students receive oral feedback from the instructors throughout the course. They are evaluated on the extent and quality of their written and oral participation during the course and their performance on exams and the final evaluation exercises. The Academic Directors assigns final grades in collaboration with the Language Instructors.

- Oral Proficiency Exam: 50%
- Instructor Evaluation: 40%
- Language Usage: 10%

**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.

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**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 with Tanzanians.

**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

**Grading Criteria**
An “A” grade for an assignment entails superior (not just “very good”) performance in terms of structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency, and the provision of factual, numerical and/or historical evidence. In terms of Class Participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Kiswahili Seminar classes, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the students’ participation will be monitored and taken into account.

**Student Expectations**

**Class Participation**
Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Academic Seminar lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

**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 Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to students at Orientation.

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