Intensive Language Study: Intermediate Kiswahili

SWAH 2000-2500 (4 Credits / 60 class hours)

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

Course Description
This course is designed to further develop student proficiency and communication in Kiswahili, while helping students understand cultural aspects of Tanzanian society through language. Cultural awareness is introduced through lectures and activities and is further reinforced through field exercises and the homestay experience. 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. 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 Intermediate 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 an improved ability to speak, understand, read, and write Kiswahili, enabling students to handle daily tasks and interactions with others;

*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.

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning
• Utilize culturally appropriate language in the context of greetings, introductions, market interactions, relating everyday experiences, asking directions, etc.;
• Exhibit a deeper knowledge of Tanzanian cultural practices through Kiswahili, including a familiarity with culturally appropriate behavior associated with language use in a variety of contexts;
• Achieve an improved capacity to function independently in Tanzania through the knowledge of a local language; and
• Apply language confidently and effectively in everyday situations, and extend the usage within the context and demands of the Independent Study Project.

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

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

*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.
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.

**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

**Student Expectations**

**Class Participation**
Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Kiswahili 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.

*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.*