



Intensive Language Study: Kinyarwanda

KINY 1003 (3 credits, 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Rwanda: Post-Genocide Restoration and Peacebuilding

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description and Methodology

The role of Kinyarwanda language training is to provide students with basic tools needed for entry into Rwandan culture. The language training is organized and carried by a language coordinator and a staff of teachers experienced in teaching Kinyarwanda to non-native speakers. Language study consists of 45 hours of formal instruction including experiential sessions on shopping, eating out, Rwandan cooking and music. Language study is reinforced through the homestay experience and through interactive assignments. Language study will also focus on training students in post-genocide cross-cultural communication nuances, which will further facilitate their ability to conduct field research or do an internship with a local NGO.

Course Objectives

The course has the following objectives:

- To provide students with basic skills in Kinyarwanda so as to facilitate daily function in Rwandan life
- To expose students to cross-cultural nuances of language in the broader sense, thereby enhancing their ability to communicate more effectively
- To give students another avenue through which to learn about Rwandan culture, using the lens of language

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should have attained the following:

- A basic understanding of Kinyarwanda so as to allow day-to-day usage in typical contexts

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- A greater understanding of the Rwandan cultural through the use of the local language
- A greater capacity to function effectively and independently in Rwanda

Course Requirements

Readings

Kimenyi, Alexandre (1980). *A Relational Grammar of Kinyarwanda*. University of California Press.

Habumuremyi, Emmanuel et al. (2006). *IRIZA-STARTER 2006: The 1st Kinyarwanda-English and English-Kinyarwanda Dictionary*. Kigali: Rural ICT-Net

Online Sources

<http://www.freelang.net/online/kinyarwanda.php>

You are responsible for all the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The readings will help you place the classes in their context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class. They are not necessarily tailor-made for each and every class.

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 PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Kinyarwanda Assignments

Instructors' assessment of class work, homework, and participation: 70%

Directors' evaluation of participation and use of Kinyarwanda beyond the classroom: 30%

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-

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Course Syllabus

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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 Academic Seminar lectures, 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.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student 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 you at Orientation.

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