

Intensive Language Study: Kinyarwanda

KINY 1003 (3 credits / 45 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

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 out by a language coordinator/teacher 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.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Develop a basic understanding of Kinyarwanda so as to allow day-to-day usage in typical contexts;
- Demonstrate a greater understanding of Rwandan culture through the use of the local language; and
- Execute basic language skills in order to function effectively and independently in Rwanda.

Module I: Greetings and other useful expressions for beginners

This first module introduces students to the most basic but useful Kinyarwanda expressions. It opens gates to the Rwandan culture and allows for a quick adjustment. Through this module

students are able to acquire basic words useful for starting some conversations with local people, especially the homestay families. The module is divided into the five following sessions:

Session I: Kinyarwanda alphabet

Though Kinyarwanda uses almost the same alphabet as English or French, the pronunciation of letters is completely different. Thus, students learn how to pronounce the Kinyarwanda alphabet and the related rules and exceptions.

Session II: Greeting expressions

Greeting is highly valued in the Rwandan culture and before starting any conversation or asking for any service, a person must start with a greeting. In order to comply with this cultural norm, students learn all Kinyarwanda greeting expressions, their meanings and pronunciation, as well as related grammatical norms.

Session III: Getting around and asking for help

In this session, students learn how to politely ask for help in case they need it, either in the homestay or elsewhere. This may include asking for directions to some places, excusing yourself before interrupting people to ask for something, and clarifying that you don't know enough Kinyarwanda and would like to know if anyone speaks English.

Session IV: Self introduction

The aim of this session is to allow students to introduce themselves in Kinyarwanda: their names, where they come from, what they do/study, and where they stay in Rwanda.

Session V: Basic conjugation and grammar

As students learn new expressions and vocabularies, they learn how to conjugate some basic verbs such as to be, to have, to stay, to study, to go, to come among others. Students will learn to observe some grammatical rules related to plural, gender, negative forms, etc. This session introduces them to that basic conjugation and grammar.

Assignments:

1. Students work in pairs and compose a dialogue about the "first meeting" with somebody.
2. Students are given a homework assignment to find at least 10 new words/vocabularies that are useful while interacting with people for the first time. This assignment helps each student to start interacting with his/her host family and learn new Kinyarwanda vocabulary.

Module 2: Going out and shopping

The second module focuses on enhancing students' ability to navigate the city, visit different places and also be able to do some shopping in Kinyarwanda.

Session I: Locations/whereabouts

Under this session, students learn how to read and write the names of different neighborhoods in Kigali city and even outside the city. They also learn how to handle public transportation (for example how to direct a taxi driver to one's host family or any other place).

Session II: Names of different materials/items

This session helps students to learn and memorize some names and words that are useful while navigating markets, supermarkets, shops, and restaurants and host family interactions. Students memorize the names of different food items, drinks, snacks, clothes, cleaning products, and more.

Session III: Kinyarwanda numbers and how to read Rwandan currency

In this session students learn Kinyarwanda numbers and how to use those numbers while shopping. This also includes learning to read prices of different items.

Session IV: Shopping techniques/bargaining

During the semester, students visit local markets to buy different things and this involves a lot of bargaining. This session teaches students to politely negotiate prices before paying. They learn different expressions that can be used to avoid being overcharged.

Assignments:

1. Students work in pairs to elaborate a dialogue between a client and a vender or a waiter (in a restaurant or bar). This allows them to master important words and expressions used during such occasions.
2. Homework about new vocabulary in relation to shopping
3. Excursion to the local market and practicing shopping skills

Module 3: Wishes, manners and compliments

Session I: Most important Kinyarwanda wishes, manners and compliments

Like in any other culture, Rwandan culture has many wishes, expected manners and compliments. Students are taught most of those wishes, manners and compliments. These include (but are not limited to) what to say and how to behave during different ceremonies such as weddings, funerals, birthday parties, child-naming ceremonies and more.

Session II: Advanced conjugation and grammar

Under this session, students learn how to conjugate a wider variety of verbs in tenses that are used in Kinyarwanda. Those tenses are mainly simple present, simple past, future today and far future. In addition to that they learn the infinitive and imperative forms of some verbs used more often.

Assignments:

1. Conjugation and grammar related exercises in class

2. Homework on identifying new compliments, wishes and manners and their meanings or contexts in which they are used.

Module 3: People relationships, jobs and professions

This module focuses on people's relationships and how they are described in Kinyarwanda. It is divided into two sessions:

Session I: Family relations (from small to extended family)

Students learn how to read, write and pronounce family relationships in Kinyarwanda from a small family of parents and their children to the larger family that includes grandparents, uncles, aunties, cousins, etc. This allows students to know how to better relate with homestay family members, knowing the relationships they have with them since they are considered children in their host families.

Session II: Jobs and professions/professionals

In this session, students learn relationships that exist at work places and Kinyarwanda names for different jobs/professions.

Module 4: Health

The aim of this module is to ensure that students are able to communicate any health/medical problem they may have while in Rwanda.

Session I: Parts of the human body

In this session students learn how to read and write names of all parts of the human body and how to use them in meaningful sentences.

Session II: Names of diseases and illness

The session focuses on names of different diseases, their symptoms and other health problems. This allows students to communicate to their homestay family members or even some local medical practitioners/nurses (who do not fully speak and understand English) any health related issue they may have.

Assignments:

1. Compose a dialogue between a patient and a doctor and practice it in class.
2. Interact with local people to learn more vocabularies used in the field of medicine.

Module 5: Time and weather

The module's objective is to enhance students' ability to tell time, date and weather in Kinyarwanda.

Session I: Time, days and months

Students learn how to read the watch in Kinyarwanda and tell time. In addition, they learn the days of the week and months of the year.

Session II: Seasons and weather

This session helps students to learn more expressions related to the local weather and how to make meaningful comments about seasons and weather in Kinyarwanda.

Assignments:

1. Class exercises on how to tell time and date in Kinyarwanda.
2. Homework on how to tell birthdays of some homestay family members in Kinyarwanda.

Sample Course Readings:

The course readings will be assigned taking into account each individual students progress/language ability as the semester progresses. Students achieving higher competence level will be assigned high level texts. The goal is to continuously challenge learners so they are constantly improving their language ability.

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.

Hands, A. L. (2013). *A Comprehensive Guide to Kinyarwanda*. 2nd Ed. GEM Resources International.

Hagenimana, F. et al (2012). *Fundamentals of Kinyarwanda; a Language Learning Course*. Speakwanda Spiral-bound. Speak Africa, LLC.

Immersion, I. & Niyibizi, A. *Shadow Me 2: Let's Speak Kinyarwanda! (Shadow Me Language Series)*.

Mukayirege, J. Niyibikora, S. & Murekatete M.B. (eds). (2004). *Reading Kinyarwanda: Year 1,2,3,4,5,6 (Gusoma i Kinyarwanda: Umwaka wa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6)*. Rwanda Ministry of Education.

Mukahigiro, P. (2016). *Humura Shenge: Inkuru y'Urukundo rw'abato*. Bakame Edition, Kigali, Rwanda.

Bazambaza, R. (2016). *Umwana mu Muryango Nyarwanda: Uburenganzira n'Inshingano*. Bakame Edition, Kigali Rwanda.

Irudukunda, I. (2017). *Isaro rya Gatatu*. Bakame Edition. Kigali, Rwanda.

Umuhuza, D. (2017). Uruhimi rwa Nyanka. Bakame Edition. Kigali, Rwanda.

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 the instructor, 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

Course Evaluation:

Instructor's assessment of class work and participation:	40%
Homework and use of Kinyarwanda beyond the classroom:	15%
Final written test:	15%
Final oral proficiency test:	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-
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>.

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