



## Intensive Language Study: Beginning Kiswahili

SWAH 1004-1504 (4 credits / 60 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Tanzania: Zanzibar - Coastal Ecology and Natural Resource Management

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

This course develops student proficiency and communication in Swahili language (Kiswahili). The course emphasizes oral comprehension and conversation skills (i.e. listening and speaking). Instructors also teach reading and writing as crucial to the reinforcement of other language skills. In addition, through lectures, field exercises, and, the homestay experience, the course helps students to grasp aspects of the culture and environment in Zanzibar and eastern Africa. Non-beginning students enter another appropriate language course level based on oral proficiency interviews and a written placement test conducted in Zanzibar. Instruction includes 60 intensive classroom hours spread out during the first four weeks and subsequent conversations focused on thematically relevant topics. Students learn basic vocabulary, language structure, and use through presentations, situational dialogues, readings, songs, and other interactive methods. Field assignments enrich the classroom experience, increase student functionality in real life language situations, and enable student adjustment to everyday life in coastal eastern Africa.

### Course Learning Outcomes:

Intensive Language Study: Beginning Kiswahili is an interdisciplinary course that comprises 60 academic hours (4 credits). By the end of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate a beginning understanding of Kiswahili: the ability to understand, speak, read, and write basic Kiswahili;
- Complete everyday tasks using Kiswahili: self-introductions, appropriate greetings, direction queries, market interactions, and summaries of experience;
- Show specific knowledge of coastal life and culture in Zanzibar through the lens of Kiswahili, including appropriate behavior and the use of language at partner venues, during fieldtrips, in public, and at the SIT office;

- Master key terms in Kiswahili linked to ecology and natural resource management;
- Learn tools to increase their language proficiency independently; and
- Achieve increased capacity to function independently in homestays, in Zanzibar, and during the ISP period.

### **Course Participation, Assignments, and Evaluation**

Attendance is mandatory, as is the timely completion of all assignments. In part, instructors evaluate students based on preparedness and participation. Students are regularly assigned reinforcement exercises, both oral and written. On average, students complete 2 hours of homework each week. Students receive oral feedback from the instructors throughout the course. They are evaluated on the extent and quality of their participation as well as their performance on written and oral exercises and exams. The Academic Director assigns final grades in collaboration with the Head Language Instructor for the program.

### **Course Readings**

Students are responsible for all required readings, and should be prepared to integrate their knowledge of readings and experiences into class discussions. The language teachers provide students with reading materials and assignments throughout the Kiswahili course. All students must bring an English/Kiswahili and/or Kiswahili/English dictionary, to help with class and language learning during their homestays. (NOTE: COURSE CONTENT, LECTURERS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS MAY BE MODIFIED. STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED PROMPTLY OF ANY CHANGES.)

### **Course Grading Distribution**

Attendance and participation:	20%
Mini written and oral assignments:	15%
Mid-term written exam:	17.5%
Mid-term oral exam:	17.5%
Pemba oral history assignment:	10%
Final oral exam:	20%

### **Course Grading Scale**

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

### **Course Grading Criteria**

All assigned grades take into account the students' special circumstances and challenges as foreigner. An "A" grade entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of accuracy, structure, and organization for assignments. An "A" grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in all language classes, field exercises, and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The frequency and quality of the students' participation is monitored and taken into account.

### **Student Expectations**

Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in all Kiswahili language lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. Furthermore, it means polite and respectful behavior. An absent student is responsible for contacting the instructor, the tutor, and/or

fellow students in preparation for the assignments s/he missed and the ones scheduled for the following classes.

**Disability Services:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at [disabilityservices@sit.edu](mailto: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 handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warnings and probations, diversity, disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process. In addition, students should refer to information available in the Student Handbook and the Program Dossier distributed during orientation.