

Course Syllabus

SIT Study Abroad

School for International Training



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Intensive Language Study: Intermediate Kiswahili

SWAH 2004-2504 (4 credits / 60 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Tanzania: Zanzibar - Coastal Ecology and Natural Resource Management

Course Description

This course is designed to develop student proficiency and communication in Kiswahili. While oral comprehension and conversational skills (i.e. listening and speaking) are emphasized, reading and writing are also highlighted as crucial to the reinforcement of those skills. In addition, the course is designed not only to help students improve their abilities in the language but also to grasp some aspects of the culture in Zanzibar. Cultural knowledge is built into the course via lectures, field exercises and the homestay experience. Non-beginning participants are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during the early days of the Kiswahili course in Zanzibar. Instruction consists of 60 classroom hours, spread out over the course several weeks. Students are introduced to the basic vocabulary and structure of the language through presentations by teachers and tutors, situational dialogues, readings, songs and other interactive methods. Field assignments are an integral component of the course, enriching the classroom learning experience and increasing the ability of students to function in real life language situations, assimilate everyday life issues and immerse in the host culture. Field assignments are done both individually and in groups. Examples of field assignments include visits to:

- Markets: to practice bargaining skills and have contact with Zanzibaris.
- Parks and museums: to learn about historical sites.
- Village assignment: to gather information using KiSwahili.
- Pemba Oral history assignment during homestay.

Course Objectives

The Intensive Language Study: Kiswahili Course has an interdisciplinary and critical focus encompassing 60 academic hours (4 credits). Its main objectives:

- To improve proficiency in spoken and written Kiswahili;

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- To enable students to develop a good understanding of Kiswahili in its cultural context, and the ability to comprehend and communicate effectively through speaking and writing;
- To prepare students for daily social interactions, conducted in Kiswahili, with Zanzibaris;
- To help students acquire insight into the role of Kiswahili within the coastal life and culture of Zanzibar;
- To develop the tools necessary for students to increase their language proficiency independently; and
- To prepare students for the demands of the Independent Study Project period.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the seminar, students will:

- Demonstrate an improved ability to speak, read, understand and write Kiswahili; allowing students to handle basic daily tasks and interactions with people (self-introduction, culturally appropriate greetings, market interactions, relating simple experiences, asking directions, etc.);
- Exhibit a deeper knowledge of Zanzibari culture through the lens of Kiswahili, including culturally appropriate behavior in language-use in a variety of contexts; and
- Achieve an increased capacity to function independently in Zanzibar through the knowledge the local language.

Course Requirements

Readings

Students are responsible for all the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The language teachers will provide students with reading materials and assignments throughout the course. All students are required to bring an English/Kiswahili and/or Kiswahili/English dictionary, to help with classes and in homestays.

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

Intensive Language Study: Kiswahili Assignments

Timely completion of all language assignments is expected. Reinforcement exercises, both oral and written, are assigned regularly. On average, students complete 1.5 - 2 hours of homework each week. 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 Director assigns final grades in collaboration with the Language Instructors.

Evaluation

Oral mid-term and final:	60%
Mid-term written exam:	10%
Class participation attendance and assignments:	20%
Language Usage: Pemba Oral History	10%

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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

All grades assigned will take into account the students' special circumstances and challenges they face as foreign students. An "A" grade entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of accuracy, structure and organization for all written 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 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 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 the ones 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 Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to you at Orientation.

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