



Intensive Language Study: Intermediate Kiswahili

SWAH 2003 - 2503 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Kenya: Public Health in the Tropics Internship

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 is designed to further develop student proficiency and communication in the Swahili language – Kiswahili. While emphasis is primarily upon oral comprehension and conversation (i.e., listening and speaking), reading and writing are highlighted as crucial to the reinforcement of those skills. In addition, the course is designed not only to help students acquire Kiswahili, but also to learn attendant cultural aspects of Kenya. Cultural awareness is built into the course via folk tales and lectures and is also introduced and reinforced through field exercises, educational excursions, and the homestay experience.

Instructors use situational dialogues, folk tales and songs to teach the students new vocabulary and grammar rules. Students explore topics such as traveling, relationships, ceremonies, speaking about one's career, biography/autobiography and functions of speech. 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.

Course Objectives

Intensive Intermediate Kiswahili encompasses 45 hours (3 credits). Its main objectives are to:

- Improve proficiency in spoken and written Kiswahili;
- Further prepare students for daily social interactions – in Kiswahili – with Kenyans and other Kiswahili speakers;
- Increase use of the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations, as well as within the context of the demands of the internship; and
- Deepen insights in the role of Kiswahili within East African life and cultures.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate an improved ability to speak, understand, read, and write Kiswahili, enabling students to handle basic daily tasks and interactions with others (culturally appropriate greetings, introductions, market interactions, relating everyday experiences, asking directions, etc.);

- Develop an expanded knowledge of Kenyan cultural practices through Kiswahili, including a familiarity with culturally appropriate behavior associated with language use in a variety of contexts;
- Exhibit an improved capacity to function independently in Kenya through the knowledge of a local language.

In addition, students should be able to complete the following linguistic tasks:

- Follow specific instructions
- Engage in social interactions with Kenyans
- Briefly discuss familiar subjects
- Talk about his/her life
- Describe a safari or recent trip
- Buy tickets using public means, i.e., for public transport, etc.
- Talk about the population of Kenya and the United States
- Locate objects and describe them
- Give and ask for directions
- Buy items in the market
- Talk on phone
- Order food in a local restaurant

PLEASE NOTE: INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS ALSO PERFORM TASKS PERFORMED BY BEGINNERS.

Language Levels and Placement

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

Course Requirements

Readings

Students are responsible for all required readings and should be prepared to bring them to bear on class discussions.

Required Texts

The program will provide students with Kiswahili handbook prepared by SIT's Kiswahili language faculty containing lessons and assignments specific to the Intensive Kiswahili course. In addition, students should bring, or obtain in Kenya, an English/Swahili-Swahili/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 Kenyans
- Cafés and restaurants: to gain experience ordering 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

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|------------------------|-----|
| 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 throughout the program.

Grading Scale: The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

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|----------|----|
| 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 Swahili 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.

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>.