

## Intensive Language Study: Advanced Kiswahili

SWAH 3003 - 3503 (3 credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:  
Kenya: Global Health and Human Rights

**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 enables students to gain a deeper understanding of the Kiswahili language through reading, analyzing and interpreting complex thoughts, issues and ideas in literature written in Kiswahili by African writers. In addition, students perform other linguistically advanced tasks, such as: expressing their feelings, seeking the opinion of others, giving advice and describing their health condition. Cultural practices and belief systems are integrated into the course and introduced through lectures, field exercises and interaction with homestay families.

While Intermediate Kiswahili focuses on daily life through an emphasis on conversational and communicative approaches, Advanced Kiswahili addresses complex issues and forms of expression related to literature, politics, society, sociological studies, gender and the program themes of health and human rights. A sampling of Kenyan films may be viewed to improve students' comprehension and analytical skills. The overall intended learning objective is to enable students to critically analyze Kiswahili texts and discourses, and express ideas in Kiswahili at an appropriate level. Instructors use situational dialogues, folk tales and songs to teach the students about societal issues and values. To reinforce the language learning and its daily uses, students participate in field exercises and rural village stays. During the exercises, students are responsible for discovering new vocabulary and patterns of speech and are constantly strengthening their language abilities. Field excursions may include visits to the following sites:

- Markets to practice bargaining skills and have contact with Kenyans
- Cafés and restaurants: to rehearse how to order a drink or food
- Museums and monuments: to learn about historical sites and handicrafts
- Weddings: to listen to music and learn about wedding traditions
- Churches and mosques: to learn about different faith groups along the coast
- Holidays: Independence Day, Idd, and other events (visit families and venues where the occasions are held)

## Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate improved proficiency and fluency in spoken and written Kiswahili;
- Demonstrate use of the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations, as well as within the context of the Independent Study Project or internship;
- Examine the role of Kiswahili within Kenyan life and culture; and
- Demonstrate skills and confidence in analyzing and expressing complex thoughts and ideas.

## Language Levels and Placement

Participants are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation. The instructor and students will spend two hours reviewing the Beginners Lessons and four hours reviewing the Intermediate Lessons.

## Learning Outcomes: Tasks

By the end of the course, students should be able to complete the following linguistic tasks in Kiswahili:

- Participate in a dialogue, discussion or argument
- Recognize taboo words and euphemisms
- Be familiar with local songs and jokes
- Comprehend a local TV program, radio show, or movie
- Be able to address an emergency situation
- Conduct a prolonged conversation on any subject
- Discuss political issues
- Compare different cultures
- Discuss international relations
- Discuss the role of men and women in both cultures
- Talk about funerals and weddings in both cultures
- Talk about geographical features: rivers, lakes, mountains and hills
- Read a map

## Learning Outcomes: Grammar

- Short form of *amba*
- Relative pronouns: *anayepika*, *nyumba waliyojenga*, *kitabu nitakachosoma*
- All noun classes
- Adverbs of manner - *vyo* - *anavyosema*
- Passive verbs: *pikwa*, *nunuliwa*, *tolewa*, *jibiwa*, *samehewa*, *liwa*, etc.
- Causative verbs: *safirisha*, *amsha*, *somesha*, *lipisha*, etc.
- Stative verbs; *vunjika*, *haribika*, *katika*, etc.
- Perfect tense: *nilikuwa nimepika*, *nitakuwa nimepika*
- Past and future continuous tense: *nilikuwa nikicheza*, *nitakuwa nikisoma*, *nimekuwa nikila*
- Subjunctives: *tusome*, *tule wajue*, *asilale*, etc.
- Passive verbs: *pikiwa*, *letewa*, etc.
- Reciprocal verbs: *pigiana simu*, *someana*, etc.
- Causative passive verbs: *rudishwa*, *amshwa*, etc.
- Diminutive forms; *kanyumba*, *katoto*, *kilango*, etc.
- Augmentative forms: *joka*, *jibwa*, *jitu jumba*, *jisu*, etc.
- Proverbs: *mtoto umleavyo ndivyo akuavyo*
- Indefinite tense: *nala waenda*, *twacheza*, etc.

- Direct objects - inanimate classes, ninaipenda, tulizinunua, atakisoma, etc.

## Course Requirements

### Readings

You are responsible for all 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 instructors, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class.

#### *Required readings*

In addition to a good quality Swahili/English/Swahili dictionary, the course will focus on local media in Kiswahili and books published in the target language. These materials are available locally and will be provided.

**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

### Assignments

Timely completion of all language assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. Students are evaluated on the extent and quality of their oral and written participation during the course, their use of Swahili outside the classroom, performance on exams and the research question assignment.

Oral Participation	50%
Regular Tests	30%
Research Questions	20%

**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 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 lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. Reinforcement exercises, both oral and written, are assigned regularly. On average, students complete two hours of homework each night.

**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.

**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>.