

LANGUAGES ACROSS CURRICULUM: SWAHILI PEDAGOGICAL STRATEGIES & DISCOURSES

Kiswahili LAC Course, Spring 2010
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Kiswahili: A Language of Diversity



Kiswahili, A Global Language

- The Kiswahili LAC Section is designed to meet the demand and interest of the African continent by North Carolina students, staff, and faculty.
- The aim is to provide students with both the knowledge and practical skills they need to succeed. The LAC section is linked with a Combined Discussion Section for: AFRI 266: *Contemporary Africa* ANTH 319: *Global Health* (INTS 319).
- The course is designed to prepare students for Study abroad opportunities, work abroad, and volunteering ventures.
- The objective is for Graduates to learn the target language in order to become more competitive candidates for employment in sectors of education, business, and non-government organizations in the African continent.

A HISTORY OF THE KISWAHILI LANGUAGE

- Swahili is a Bantu language and is of African origin. Swahili is a unique sundry language and has been in contact with several global languages for a significant time. Kiswahili has infused words from languages such as Arabic, German, English, and Portuguese. The Kiswahili language is beautiful, rhythmic, and melodic and is endowed with complex grammatical constructs based on a 18 Noun Class System.
- Kiswahili is spoken in East Africa, Central Africa, and Arab countries such as Oman and Bahrain.
- Swahili has more than 50 million speakers and is the seventh widely spoken language in the world. In addition, Swahili is the official language of Kenya and Tanzania.
- Kiswahili has been embraced globally and has been instrumental in the creation of the holiday, “Kwanzaa”. Kiswahili is also a working language used in the United Nations. Kiswahili has gained popularity globally in the recent decade.

AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHERE KISWAHILI IS SPOKEN



WHY LEARN SWAHILI

- Individuals with academic and research interests in East and Central Africa find Swahili a useful tool in the field.
- Archaeologists digging for fossils in the Great Rift Valley, to linguists studying African languages, and researchers find Swahili invaluable in their work.
- Others study Swahili in order to participate in Study abroad programs in East Africa.
- Given the multiplicity of languages spoke in East and Central Africa, researchers find the knowledge of Swahili important as they are able to communicate with speakers of other languages through the regions' lingua franca.

Learning Strategies

The Structure of the Kiswahili LAC Course allows Students to achieve knowledge by:



Incorporating real world applications into lessons.



Utilizing and Embracing the experiences of fellow students by blending in different disciplines into the lectures – Global health, State Defense, Law, and Business.



Reinforcing grammar techniques and contextualization of the language.

Real-World Application

Current Events

- Listening to the BBC news
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/swahili/>
- Reading local newspapers



Cultural Lessons

- Reading children story books to learn relevance
- Listening to cultural songs to reinforce language context



Student Experiences

In the LAC course, students share their experiences in a variety of fields. Students learn the necessary vocabulary and current trends that are occurring in these fields.

- Health → HIV/AIDS updates
- Peace & Reconciliation → combating ethnic tensions
- Business → focus on Agriculture
- Law → Political trends, Global Cultures

Assignments

- Reading newspaper articles → allows for translation practice and specific vocabulary development
- Listening to the news → further develops listening comprehension skills
- Students compose essays in Swahili on topics of interest and share them with the class → learn about regional issues affecting the continent of Africa
- Final portfolio of work completed in the class