

---

# Kiswahili Beginning Course I

**COURSE DESIGNATOR** MSID 1221

**Language of Instruction** Kiswahili

**NUMBER OF CREDITS** 4 credits

**Contact Hours** 60 hours

---

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory Kiswahili language course for students who have had little or no previous lessons at all. The course stresses proficiency in the spoken language; hence, classes will be based towards real experiences and everyday events. This makes class participation and attendance essential components of the course. In class instruction will be fun and encouraging so that students are not afraid to make mistakes, however there is rigorous testing through assignments, quizzes, and exams. Students are graded according to demonstrated competency in Swahili. This language course is designed above all to help students develop the four communication skills (speaking, writing, listening and reading). The focus is on standard Swahili, later on in your own experiences you may learn slang or other forms of non-standard Swahili.

## INSTRUCTOR

Name: Mwalimu Judy Kiprop/Omanga Momanyi

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, each student will demonstrate oral and written evidence of acquisition of:

- a. Basic skills in performing day to day interactions such as greetings, interpersonal conversations, and comprehension in Kiswahili
- b. Use of simple communicative grammatical constructions.
- c. Appreciation of basic cultural practices of Swahili speaking people

## METHODOLOGY

This course is divided into two major components designed to address different skills in complementary ways.

1. The first component is time spent in the classroom, where listening, speaking, and interacting in culturally appropriate ways will be our goals. Kiswahili will be the medium of instruction and interaction. Before each week you should study each week's vocabulary and grammar so that we can review in class without using English. If you need an English explanation for something we do in class, wait until the last 5 minutes or after class for help.

Class attendance is mandatory. You should understand that frequent or extended absences will not allow you to develop your skills and will therefore influence your oral performance in particular, but your overall performance, too. You may miss up to three classes with no consequences. Following your third absence, your final course grade will be reduced 0.1 for each missed class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what material was covered during your absence. If you know in advance that you will be absent, please inform me. Homework must be handed in the day and time it is due unless a new date is discussed

In order to ensure that everyone gets to know each other, most weeks you will be assigned a conversation partner on Monday. During pair work and conversations you should work with this person for the entire week.

2. The other component occurs outside of the classroom involving reading, interacting with families and other Kenyans, and personal interaction. Learning that takes place out of the classroom is designed to prepare you for class work by familiarizing you with material that will be covered in class as well as to provide follow-up activities for review and assessment. Using texts to address reading, writing, and grammar skills allows us to use our limited time in the classroom as an opportunity for (primarily but not exclusively) oral communication and interaction.

## REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

Any Swahili dictionary

M. A. Mohammed, *Modern Swahili Grammar*.

P. M. Wilson, *Simplified Swahili*.

Mwanasimba.online.fr/E

## GRADING

Grading Rubric		
A	93-100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of how grades are weighted:

Attendance & Class Participation	15%
Assignments	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Oral Proficiency Interviews	15%
Group Project	10%
Overall Grade	100%

## PLEASE NOTE

- It is good to work together on homework and assignments, but be sure to write your own answers and try to understand what you are writing.
- If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course please tell the instructor as soon as possible.
- Exams will be done without the aid of outside materials. You may use a dictionary when doing homework.

## OVERALL WORK FOR ASSIGNMENTS

You should plan to spend about seven to ten hours a week studying Swahili at home. On nights that homework is not assigned, you should review the materials that we have done so far that week and write down any questions you have.

Homework should be turned in when it is due.

## ORAL PROFICIENCY INTERVIEWS (OPI) AND WRITTEN ESSAYS

Among the things which will be looked at are pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, content, and how well you incorporate culture, sayings, coherence, and length. Before the OPI or an essay assignment, students will be informed of specific elements for which the instructor will be looking.

The OPI consists of reading a short text, describing a picture, giving an opinion on a given topic, answering questions and engaging another student or instructor in a conversation on a given topic

## GROUP PRESENTATION

You and a partner will be required to undertake a simple research project about any topic related to Kenya. You will be expected to turn in a two-page (double-spaced) paper and make a joint presentation of the same in class.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1

- **Classwork:**
  - Greetings & introduction
  - Personal pronouns
  - Present tense
- **Grammar Points:** Verbs –called, come from, stay, subject prefixes and common nouns
- **Assignments:** Handout chapter 2
- **Further Reading:** Hinnebusch Utangulizi chapt 1-5

### WEEK 2

- **Classwork:**
  - Basic tenses Na, Me, Li Ta
  - Restaurant vocabulary
  - Numbers
- **Grammar Points:**
  - Subject prefixes
  - More verbs
  - Foodstuff, prepositions
  - After, before, then
- **Assignments:** Handout chapter 7,8,14,22
- **Further Reading:**
  - Hinnebusch chapter 6-9
  - Study for chemsha Bongo #1

### WEEK 3

- **Classwork:**
  - Requests and commands, dates, months & year
  - Days of the week
  - Chemsha Bongo #1
- **Grammar Points:** Verbs- to be born, to have, age and life history
- **Assignments:** Chapter 18
- **Further Reading:**
  - Simplified Swahili chapt 4.
  - Parts of the body

### WEEK 4

- **Classwork:**
  - Time telling,
  - Habitual Hu tense

- Market and buying and selling voc
- **Grammar Points:**
  - More verbs, to buy, sell, bargain, reduce increase, adverbs usually, often
  - Direct object
- **Assignments:** Handout 23,24
- **Further Reading:** Hinnebusch chapter 10-12

## WEEK 5

- **Classwork:**
  - Noun class, 1/2,3/4,&5/6,7/8,9/10
  - Possessive pronouns, demonstrative pronouns
- **Grammar Points:** Nouns
- **Assignments:** Handout chapters 6,9,13,15,16,20,29
- **Further Reading:** Hinnebusch chapt 14

## WEEK 6

- **Classwork:** Adjectives, colors, clothes, verb to Be & locative
- **Grammar Points:**
  - Verbs to like, wear
  - Preposition of position-up, down, near
- **Assignments:** Handout Chapters 11,12
- **Further Reading:** Hinnebusch chapt 13, simplified Swahili chapt 41 &28

## WEEK 7

- **Classwork:** Exam week-Written and Oral

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

#### SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

#### STUDENT CONDUCT

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be

found on the Learning Abroad Center website.