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Course Outline

AFRI-401-001 - Swahili Language & Culture

Course Information

Term	FALL
Year	2021
Course schedule	SEP 02, 2021 – DEC 06, 2021 8:35AM – 9.25AM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
Course location	Burnside 1B24

Instructor Information

Name and Title	Mwalimu Kariuki Kirigia
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Telephone number	+1 438 763 5618
Office hours for students	Thursdays: 10AM – 12PM.

Course Overview

Basic knowledge of the Swahili language and culture with emphasis on handling circumstances that might be encountered in field research: everyday conversations, developing aural and oral skills and mastering basic grammar rules, understanding cultural norms and practices, and issues of culture sensitivity and appropriateness.

Note: Priority is given to students in the African Studies Program and/or participants of the Canadian Field Studies in Africa Program and to students with demonstrable need related to internship or research. Approval by African Studies Program Adviser is required.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to engage in a simple conversation in Kiswahili including introduction of self and others, asking for directions, requesting for information, goods and services, and all the while remaining aware of the cultural norms and practices of various East African peoples and groups.

Instructional Method

This course will follow an in-person classroom format. The instructional approaches for the course will be lectures, group projects, peer to peer exchanges, songs, videos, and films. Class etiquette is to be observed at all times.

Required Course Materials

- 2 notebooks (at least 100 pages long).

Recommended Course Materials

- Almasi, O., Fallon, M. D., & Wared, N. P. (2014). *Swahili grammar for introductory and intermediate levels : Sarufi ya kiswahili cha ngazi ya kwanza na kati*. ProQuest Ebook Central <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/mcgill/reader.action?docID=1810394>
- English-Kiswahili dictionary.

Course Content

- Sarufi (Grammar)
- Mazungumzo (Conversations)
- Kusoma (Reading)
- Kuandika (Writing)
- Kusikiliza (Listening)
- Msamiati (Vocabulary)
- Nyimbo (Songs)

RATIBA

Class	Date	Description
1	Alhamisi 02/09	Utangulizi (Introduction) Alfabeti (Kiswahili alphabet) Matamshi (Pronunciation)
	Jumatatu 07/09	Labour Day
2	Jumanne 07/09	Maamkizi (Greetings) Utangulizi (Introduction) Siku za wiki (Days of the week)
3	Alhamisi 09/09	Imperatives Maagizo (Instructional words) Kukaribisha/Karibu! Nambari ¹ (Numbers)
4	Jumatatu 13/09	Review lecture Jinsi ya kuuliza swali (Question formation)
5	Jumanne 14/09	Infinitives, Subject and object prefixes Kutunga sentensi Nambari ² Saa (Time)
6	Alhamisi 16/09	Viwakilishi (Pronouns) Miezi ya mwaka Kusema tarehe (siku, mwezi, mwaka) Misimu (seasons)
7	Jumatatu 20/09	Vionyeshi (Demonstratives) Umoja na wingi (Singular and plural) Viumbe (Creatures)
8	Jumanne 21/09	Review Lecture Quiz 1
9	Alhamisi 23/09	Ngeli (Noun Classes) Umoja na wingi (Singular and plural) Kutunga sentensi Familia
10	Jumatatu 27/09	Ngeli (Noun Classes) Umoja na wingi (Singular and plural) Jinsi ya kuuliza swali (Question formation) Samani (Furniture)
11	Jumanne 28/09	Ngeli (Noun Classes) Umoja na wingi (Singular and plural) Jinsi ya kuuliza swali (Question formation) Rangi (Colours)

Class	Date	Description
12	Alhamisi 30/09	Review Lecture
13	Jumatatu 04/10	Nyakati (Tenses) Wakati uliopo (Present tense) Kuandika na kusikiliza
14	Jumanne 05/10	Nyakati (Tenses) Wakati uliopita (Past tense) Kuandika na kusikiliza
15	Alhamisi 07/10	Nyakati (Tenses) Wakati ujao (Future tense) Kuandika na kusikiliza
16	Jumatatu 11/10	Thanksgiving
17	Jumanne 12/10	Review Lecture Quiz 2
18	Alhamisi 14/10	Nomino na vitenzi (Nouns and verbs) Kutunga sentensi
19	Ijumaa 15/10 (Make up class)	Nomino na vitenzi (Nouns and verbs) Kutunga sentensi
20	Jumatatu 18/10	Kusikiliza na kuandika (Listening and writing)
21	Jumanne 19/10	The verb 'NA' Kukanusha (Negation) Kazi/Utaalamu (Professions)
22	Alhamisi 21/10	The verb 'NA' Kutunga sentensi
23	Jumatatu 25/10	Review Session
24	Jumanne 26/10	Mid-Term Exam
25	Alhamisi 28/10	Vivumishi (adjectives) Michezo (Sports) Kusoma na kuandika Kutunga sentensi
26	Jumatatu 01/11	Locatives Hali ya anga (Weather) Mazingira (Environment) Kuzungumza

Class	Date	Description
27	Jumanne 02/11	Sokoni/Dukani (At the market/shop) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bei (Price) Kuuliza swali Kuandika na kusikiliza
28	Alhamisi 04/11	Vihusishi (Prepositions) Usafiri (Travel and transport) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kata tiketi (Buy a ticket) • Maelekezo (Directions) • Usafirishaji (Modes of travel) Msamiati
29	Jumatatu 08/11	Review Lecture Quiz 3
30	Jumanne 09/11	Possessive pronouns Msamiati Kutunga sentensi
31	Alhamisi 11/11	Connective '-A' of association Kutunga sentensi
32	Jumatatu 15/11	Sehemu za mwili (Body parts) Afya (Health) Kusoma na kusikiliza
33	Jumanne 16/11	Mkahawani (At the restaurant) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuagiza (Ordering) • Chakula (Food) • Vinywaji (Drinks) Kulipa (Paying) Kusoma na kusikiliza
34	Alhamisi 18/11	Review Lecture Quiz 4
35	Jumatatu 22/11	Vinyume (Reversives) Nyimbo (Songs) Kusoma
36	Jumanne 23/11	Wanyama wa nyumbani (Domestic animals) Kusoma na kusikiliza
37	Alhamisi 25/11	Hali (States of being) Vilinganishi (Comparatives)
38	Jumatatu 29/11	Utalii (Tourism) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanyama pori (Wildlife) • Vivutio vya watalii (Tourist attractions) Kusoma na kusikiliza
39	Jumanne 30/11	Marudio (Review Session)

Class	Date	Description
40	Alhamisi 02/12	Oral Exam
41	Jumatatu 06/12	Oral Exam

Evaluation

The course will be assessed through the following items:

- Quizzes**
 Four quizzes will be administered during the semester at the end of each review session as indicated on the course outline. The quizzes will incorporate material covered during the sessions preceding the review session. Each quiz counts for 10%. The three highest scored quizzes will be considered for the final course evaluation.
- Group assignment**
 Students will form groups in class, and the course instructor will assign a task for the group. Each group will present their item to the rest of the class. A single grade will be awarded to all members of the group. Further instructions will be provided in class.
- Diary**
 Students will write a weekly diary throughout the course in keeping with the material learnt in class. The first entry should be done at the end of the second week, after which entries will be done at the end of each week. Each entry should be at least half a page long, and a maximum of one page.
- Mid-term exam**
 Students will be assessed on the material covered until the date of the mid-term exam. A revision session will be conducted before the mid-term exam.
- Oral Exam (in-class)**
 Students will engage in a dialogue in pairs on a topic assigned by the course instructor. Each student will be awarded a grade based on their individual performance.

Evaluation Summary

Evaluation	% of final grade
Quizzes	30
Diary	20
Mid-Term Exam	20
Group Assignment	10
Oral Exam (in-class)	20

McGill Policy Statements

Language of Submission:

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.”

Note: In courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives, the assessments shall be in the language of the course.

« Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue). »

Academic Integrity:

“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see [McGill’s guide to academic honesty](#) for more information).

« L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le [guide pour l’honnêteté académique de McGill](#)). »

Additional Statements

- “© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.”
- “As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#), 514-398-6009.”

Territorial Acknowledgment

- **“McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.”**

« L’Université McGill est sur un emplacement qui a longtemps servi de lieu de rencontre et d’échange entre les peuples autochtones, y compris les nations Haudenosaunee et Anishinabeg. Nous reconnaissons et remercions les divers peuples autochtones dont les pas ont marqué ce territoire sur lequel les peuples du monde entier se réunissent maintenant. »

Course Evaluations

- “[End-of-course evaluations](#) are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.”
- “In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.”