

## Swahili III (A005300)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 1)	Dutch, English	Gent	independent work
			practical
			seminar

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Shayo, Gundelinda	LW21	staff member
Devos, Maud	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures</a>	5	A

**Teaching languages**

English, Dutch

**Keywords**

Swahili, Bantu, East-Africa

**Position of the course**

This course is a follow-up of Swahili II and aims at enhancing and applying the already acquired vocabulary and grammatical knowledge of the language. The abilities of the students to read, understand, speak and write are further improved. The students get an insight in different elements of Swahili language and culture in past and present times.

**Contents**

The course is based on a selective corpus of Swahili texts. This practical reader contains texts touching upon different aspects of Swahili culture. Through Swahili language students familiarize themselves with Swahili culture. Themes that may come across are 1) the early history of Swahili along the East African coast, 2) climate change or *Mabadiliko ya Tabianchi*, 3) examples of Swahili literature, 4) Swahili drama. The students prepare the texts or audiovisual fragments at home and during the seminars and practicals the contents are discussed in Swahili and the students make exercises on grammar and vocabulary.

**Initial competences**

Having successfully followed the Swahili II course or having acquired elsewhere the skills transferred through that course.

**Final competences**

- 1 The objectives of this course correspond to the following general objectives of the Bachelor in African languages and cultures:
  - B.1.1. Acquire insights into African linguistics
  - B.1.2 Command the grammatical structure of Swahili and Lingála and develop an elementary oral fluency in both languages as a generative basis to acquire active competence in those and other Bantu languages.
- 2 In terms of language acquisition, reaching level A2+ of the common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The student can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of immediate relevance.

He/She can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. He/She can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

3 As for linguistics, acquiring a scientific understanding of Swahili grammar.

4 Acquire an understanding of the link between Swahili language and culture.

Realize that one does not always imply the other.

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Practical, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Weekly seminar by the titular; weekly practicals by the teaching assistant; accompanied self study (weekly exercises at home); intermediary test. No lesson recordings are provided, but after each lesson, an overview of the material covered is posted on Ufora with links to the relevant study material. Facilities are provided for students who do not speak Dutch. Students who miss more than 20% of the practicals without legitimate justification can no longer participate in the examination. Participation in the writing exercises is also compulsory.

#### **Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: Colloquial Swahili: The Complete Course for Beginners

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Donovan McGrath & Lutz Marten

ISBN : 978-1-13895-017-7

Number of Pages : 352

Type: Handbook

Name: Swahili Grammar and Workbook

Indicative price: € 63

Optional: yes

Language : English

Author : Fidèle Mpiranya

ISBN : 978-1-13880-826-3

Number of Pages : 262

Type: Reader

Name: Articles Climate Change, History of Kiswahili, Fragments of Kiswahili Literature

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

#### **References**

-

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Interactive counselling through e-mail or by (electronic) appointment (office, MS Teams, Skype, etc.).

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Oral assessment, Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Oral assessment, Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

The written and oral exam take place successively. The students first pass the written exam simultaneously and then individually the oral exam. Students who miss more than 20% of the practicals without legitimate justification can no longer participate in the examination.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

100% periodic evaluation: written exam (60%) and oral exam (40%). Students who do not participate in (one of the parts of) the assessment, or have a score lower than 10/20 for one of the parts, automatically fail the entire course. End scores higher than 10/20 will, in this case, be reduced to the highest non-passing score.

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Student attendance is compulsory.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

Extra information:

It needs to be pointed out that acquiring a new language without attending the course is not obvious. This is especially so for the practice sessions.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy