

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 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

Dutch, English

Gent

practical

independent work

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Shayo, Gundelinda

LW21

staff member

Devos, Maud

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

[Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures](#)

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. 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

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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