

Swahili IV (A005301)

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 2)	Dutch, English	Gent	practical seminar independent work
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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

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	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 III and aims at enhancing and applying the acquired knowledge of Swahili through fragments taken from the rich Swahili literature. Students go through an anthology of Swahili oral literature, prose fiction, drama and to conclude also some examples of ancient and modern poetry.

Contents

The course is based on fragments taken from Swahili literary forms. We start with examples of oral literature (for the most part collected by non-native speakers of Swahili) and continue with fragments from (contemporary) plays and novels written by Kenian and Tanzanian authors. Finally we also look at some ancient and modern Swahili poems. The texts or audio fragments are prepared at home. During the seminars and practicals special grammatical constructions are analysed and put into practice.

Initial competences

Having successfully followed the Swahili III 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 B1 of the common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The student can understand the most important points of clear standard texts about familiar topics. The student can talk his/her way through most situations arising when traveling in Swahili speaking places. The student can produce a simple running text on topics that

are familiar or of personal interest. The student can describe experiences, dreams, expectations, ambitions and can give short motivations and explanations for certain opinions and projects.

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

4 Acquire a basic knowledge of the history of Swahili literature and get to know different forms of Swahili literature.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

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: Swahili Grammar and Workbook

Indicative price: € 64

Optional: yes

Language : English

Author : Fidèle Mpiranya

ISBN : 978-1-13880-826-3

Number of Pages : 262

Type: Handouts

Name: Fragments Swahili Literature

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Bertoncini Zúbková, E., M.D. Gromov, S.A.M. Khamis & K.W. Wamitila. 2009.

Outline of Swahili literature. Prose Fiction and Drama. 2nd ed. Leiden: Brill.

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