

Fall 2020: Beginning Akan 1 (AKA 1130)

Instructor: Mohammed Mustapha

Class periods: 4- MTWRF

Office hours: M/TR 2-4 PM or by appointment

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Course description:

This course seeks to introduce students to the language and culture of the Akan people. It is aimed at equipping students to be able to acquire communicative skills necessary to sustain conversation in the Akan world. These communicative skills will be built in many ways including a series of in-class and take-home exercises in the Twi language. There will be role-playing in class where various scenarios are given, and students act them out, using the Twi language. Books with stories on the Akan way of life and culture will be read, watching videos, and writing about specific social events and settings, for example, the home, marketplaces, etc. Again, listening tasks will involve spontaneous face-to-face and recorded conversations. Class exercises will include grammar, storytelling/writing, dictation exercise, comprehension exercises (both written and listening), and essays on different contexts of language usage and of course, role playing.

Course Objective:

Students should be able to initiate and sustain spontaneous conversations; ask and answer questions related to personal and daily life using the Akan language . The student will also be able to read, comprehend, compose, and discuss short Akan texts on familiar topics and mundane social events as well as some cultural practices in Ghana.

Course Policy: The course plan is subject to change to reflect students' interest while not disrupting the general outline of the course syllabus. Any such change(s) will be announced during the semester.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are required to uphold high academic standards and avoid academic dishonesty. Details on student responsibilities and regulations can be viewed at: [Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

Online class activities:

Daily topics will be introduced to students, there will be repetitive practice of scenarios to ensure that each student understand the topic for the day. Students will be selected to role-play/read dialogues and/or speak on given language situations. Grades will be awarded for class participation and preparations.

Course requirements

Class attendance: Online class attendance is required. Class attendance and participation will count for 10% of the final grade.

Assignments: Daily and weekly assignments will be given and this will form 10% of the final grading. Daily assignments will be posted online every week for students to turn in their

completed work the following day. Weekly assignments will be posted every Friday and students are required to turn in their assignment on the Sunday before the beginning of each week. Questions regarding weekly assignment should be sent through email to be addressed.

Mid-term exam: There will be a midterm exam. The mid-term exams will form 20% of the final grade.

Project work: There will be a required project work for students. The project work will count as 20% towards the final grade. Students will have to propose a project to be done in Twi by midterm. The final project must be submitted by the end of the class.

Final exams: The final exam will be in two forms; oral exams and a written exam. Oral exam is 20% of the final grade while the written exam will count for 20% of the final grade. The final exam will be 40% of the final grade.

Final evaluation:

Class attendance/participation	10%
Class assignments	10 %
Midterm exams	20 %
Project work	20%
Finals (Oral and written)	40%

Grading scale

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	85-89
B	80-84
B-	75-79
C+	70-74
C	67- 69
C-	64-66
D+	60-63
D	55-59
D-	50-54
F	0-49

Text:

Banning-Peprah and Agyemang, 2002. Ma y3nsua Twi kasa ne amammer3. Book 2.
 Essegbey, J., Ofori, E., and Bass, M. Online Beginning Akan 1. University of Florida
 Ofori, S. A (2006). Ma Yenka Akan (Twi). Madison, Wisconsin. NARLC Press

Supplementary resources: Various online and soft copies of materials will be provided to students. Because there are not so much online materials developed for the teaching of Twi language, most online resources will be sourced from YouTube.

Beginning Akan syllabus

Week(s): MTWRF	Weekly Topic	Expected outcome(s)	Activities
1 08/31-09/4	Introduction to syllabus Brief introduction to Akan/Twi language, the people and diversity in Ghana. Greetings and Responses: morning, afternoon, and evening greetings.	By the end of this class, students should be able to greet in the Twi language at different times of the day.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
2 9/8-11	Basic pronouns and Akan names 'casual' used in daily greetings. Me, wo, ne, Agya, 3na, papa, maame etc Introduction to Akan family structure and names of some members of the Akan family	By the end of this class, students will be able to use appropriate pronouns in the Twi language in greetings, students will also be able to mention and describe the basic family unit in Akan.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
3 9/14-18	Self-introduction/Talking about self. Asking to know about someone.	By the end of this class, students should be able to introduce themselves in simple terms to Akan speaking persons, and ask about their names, where they live, and where they come from.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
4 9/21-25	Names of days in the week in Twi.	By the end of this class, students will be able to mention the names of	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas.

		Akan names determined the day one is born	days in Twi and be able to know the traditional names associated with each day.	Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
5	9/28-10/1	Asking questions: Who, how, when, what time, what do you think? Introduction to some frequently used words in Akan: "like, do not like. I have and I do not have. I would like to I do not like"	By the end of this class, students should be able to ask basic/general questions in Twi and be able to tell what they like and dislike.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
6	10/5-9	Learning numbers in Twi. Different Ghanaian foods: Banku, Tou-Zaafi, Fufu, Ampesi	By the end of this class, students should be able to know numbers in Twi from 0-10, and some common Ghanaian dishes.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
7	10/12-16	Numbers part II. Learning to use currencies in Twi. Popular fruits and vegetables in Ghana	By the end of this class, students should be able to know numbers in Twi from 10-100. They will also be able to know some common fruits in a typical Ghanaian market.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
8	19-23	Pluralization of Twi words Negation of Twi words	By the end of this class, students should be able to know how to pluralize nouns in Twi and negate verbs.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video

				assignments on canvas.
9	10/26-30	Detailed description of oneself. Describe the human body parts.	By the end of this class, students should be able to describe themselves, their family as well some aspects of their physical body.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
10	11/2-6	Daily routine part I. "what I do in the morning, afternoon, and evening".	By the end of this class, students should be able to talk about what they do in the morning, afternoon, and evenings.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
11	11/9-13	Asking questions in Twi language Such as Ordering food at the restaurant.	By the end of this class, students should be able to use the Twi language to ask basic questions from people they meet, as well as use the language to order food at a Ghanaian restaurant.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
12	16-20	Tenses: past and future tenses Expressing future events: tomorrow, next week, next year, next summer, spring etc.	By the end of this class, students should be able to use the Twi language in the past, future, and present tenses. Students can talk about things in the future and in the past.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
13	11/23, 24, &30	Descriptions: describing people, the environment, others: tenten, tietia, tuntum, k)k)), ware, nware Some important Twi phrases: 3s3 s3	By the end of this class, students should be able to describe people, things in their environment, things they use daily, and their environment.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well

		3w) s3, 3te s3, 3firi s3, Medwene s3, mehunu s3		as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
14	12/1-4	Telling the time. Asking of the time Asking for directions	By the end of this class, students should be able to ask and tell the time in Twi language, as well as ask for directions and give directions to people using the Twi language.	Students are expected to read class materials for the week posted on canvas. Students will have online instruction, and conversation with instructor and colleagues as well as role play scenarios to be provided. Students turn in audio/video assignments on canvas.
15	12/7-9	Revision week		
16	12-12-18	Finals week	Format: TBA	