

## SSA 4905: Swahili Language & Culture for Travelers

Class #: 25543

Section #: 7W33

Spring 2020

Thursday: Period 10-11 (5:10-7:05 PM)

Classroom: this class meets online via Zoom Conference

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Instructor: Charles Bwenge

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### 1. Course Description

This is an introductory course to Swahili language, history, and culture designed for anyone interested to explore the basics of Swahili language and East African cultures. The course does not require any previous knowledge of Swahili. Students will explore who the Swahili people were and who they have become, who they are not, and the complexities pertaining to term "Swahili". The course will focus on issues that travelers face as they travel around East African countries. It will also introduce important Swahili phrases and common expressions that are helpful in various Swahili speaking contexts such as arriving at the airport, ground transportation, hotel services, restaurant, local markets, safety, safari, etc. It should be noted that this is a multidisciplinary course that will be sourced from various texts newspapers, magazines, booklets, films, music videos, pictures, handouts, websites, etc. Through these sources, students will get a bird's eye view of the East African multicultural settings and the role of Swahili as a *lingua franca*.

### 2. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify Swahili resources relevant to understanding and familiarizing with cultures of the Swahili-speaking east Africa.
- Understand and formulate their own view of the multiple heritage and diversity of Swahili speaking communities.
- Recognize and use basic Swahili phrases, expressions, and customs in settings such as informal social interactions, grocery shopping at a local market, dressing, health service, weather, and travel.
- Develop confidence in traveling around East African countries.

### 3. Media/System Requirements

Listed below are the media/system requirements applicable to this course:

System requirements: Computer with Internet access and sound card.

Need Technical Support? Contact .....

### 4. Required Textbooks/Media

Mazrui & Shariff. 1994. *The Swahili: Idiom and Identity of an African People*. New Jersey: AWP.

*Wonders of the African World (The Swahili Coast, 60 min)*

## 5. Responsibilities, Assignments, and Grading

Reading assigned texts and close viewing of selected films/video clips, as well as attending class are, of course, the **keys to the success** of this course. Please have the readings and viewing done by the day designated - they constitute the foundation for what goes on in the course. Every individual's active participation is expected including active viewing. The materials explored in this course guide us to **how to learn and rethink the way we think about Swahili-speaking East African region and its culture**

Your course grade will be based on a combination of a map quiz, class attendance, participation, reading quizzes, keeping an African country journal (current events), three (3) short discussion papers, and group presentation (Roundtable). The breakdown of the grading is as follows:

Map quizzes [MQ] (2)	15%
Class attendance [CA]	5%
Participation [P]	25%
Reading/viewing quizzes [RQ] (5)	25%
Application Assignments	30%
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Total	100%
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The authorized letter grades (A, B, C, D, E) are as follows:

**A** = 93-100; **A-** = 90-92; **B+** = 87-89; **B** = 83-86; **B-** = 80-82; **C+** = 77-79; **C** = 73-76; **C-** = 70-72; **D+** = 67-70; **D** = 63-66; **D-** = 60-62; **E** = 59 and below.

### Grade Points:

**A** = 4.0; **A-** = 3.67; **B+** = 3.33; **B** = 3.0; **B-** = 2.67; **C+** = 2.33; **C** = 2.0; **C-** = 1.67; **D+** = 1.33; **D** = 1.0; **D-** = 0.67; **E** = 0.0

### 5.1 A Map Quiz (MQ) [51%]

Two map quizzes will be administered. These quizzes are intended to encourage you to put as much effort as possible from early on in the course in understanding **important physical features** and **political setting of East Africa**. MQ-1: A blank map of Africa with country boundaries drawn in will be provided, as well as main rivers, lakes, and islands. MQ-2: match major ethnic groups & cultures with their corresponding geographical locations.

### 5.2 Class attendance (CA) [5%]

Attendance is REQUIRED.

### 5.3 Class Participation (CP) [25%]

Active participation is expected. The more you read assigned texts thoroughly and watch films and video clips actively and think about them seriously, the greater chances are for you not only to **participate productively** in this exploration, but also to **enjoy the class**.

### 5.4 Reading & Viewing Quizzes (RQ) [25%]

A total of five (5) reading quizzes (RQ/VQ) will be administered as indicated in the schedule below. Each RQ or VQ will have either five or ten items of multiple choice, fill in the blanks, matching item or True/False types.

**5.5 Application Assignments [30%]**

Students have to answer questions from readings and videos and making comparisons of Swahili cultures and their own culture in areas such as history, people and language, diversity, etc. They will also create their own phrase book regarding what they view as most important survival Swahili phrases and expressions.

**6.0 Academic Honesty**

The University of Florida’s honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work. University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>

**7.0 Students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities will be accommodated accordingly. Those requesting such accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office which will provide them with documentation.

**9.0 Beginning & Intermediate Swahili Courses (SWA 1130/1131 & SWA 2200/2201)**

Please note that this course can increase your interest in Swahili language courses such as Beginning Swahili and Intermediate Swahili offered on regular basis and a door to various funding sources including study abroad programs. For more information contact Dr. Charles Bwenge, [cbwenge@ufl.edu](mailto:cbwenge@ufl.edu)  
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**10.0 Proposed themes & schedule**

Week	Topic(s)	Class activities	Remarks
1	Introductions, review of syllabus & revision	Reading, viewing.	
2	East Africa & the Swahili Coast– the geographic frame	Reading, viewing, & discussion	
3	<i>Wonders of the African World</i> (Swahili Coast, by Loius Gate, Jr)	Watching video clip and reflecting on the content	
4	Lion King	Watching the movie & reflecting on the story.	
5	Lang Focus – Global Insight through Language Learning (Swahili)	Viewing and reflecting on the video clip	
6	Wonders of numbers (in Swahili)	Viewing Swahili calendar, schedules, money bills, etc.	
7	Swahili music: Taarab	Viewing video clips & a conversation pertaining to the evolution of Taarab	
8	Swahili music: BongoFleva	Viewing video clips & a conversation pertaining to the evolution of BongoFleva	

9	Spring Break		
10	Tourist attractions [National parks, cultural sites, natural sites, animals, etc)	Virtual visits of various sites – learning a few Swahili names	
11	Modes of Transportation and related safety issues (walking, biking, motorcycle taxi, tricycle taxi, car taxi, minibus taxi, city transit services, etc.)	Reading, Viewing and reflecting	
12	Health & medical services [from traditional healing to modern medicine)	Reading, Viewing and reflecting	
13	Foods & drinks [various recipes, cultural groups, eating habits, restaurants, fast food services	Reading, Viewing and reflecting	
14	Religious beliefs (traditional, Islam, Christianity, the rise of Pentecostal & Evangelical Independent churches].	Reading, Viewing and reflecting	
15	Clothes & Dressing [casual, business, religious, etc]	Reading, Viewing, and Reflecting	