

Yor 2200: Intermediate Yoruba I (2020 Fall)

Instructor: Kole Ade Odotola
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Period: 7 MWF
Venue: Zoom
Credits: 3
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Classes start August 1st, 2020
Classes end December 8th, 2020

YORÙBÁ People and their LANGUAGE

Yorùbá is a tonal language spoken in Nigeria by about thirty million people and in the neighboring countries of the Republic of Benin and Togo. In Nigeria, Yorùbá speakers reside in the Southwest region in states such as Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti, Lagos, Kogi and Kwara states. Yorùbá is a Kwa language, which belongs to the Yoruboid group. Apart from about 30 million native speakers of the language found in south-western Nigeria and South-eastern Benin Republic, there are also descendants of Yoruba people transported to the New World during the Transatlantic slavery of 18th to 19th centuries; most especially in Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, etc who speak variations of the language.

Yoruba is a tonal language and so it is important to pay attention to the tones in the language. Tones occur on the syllable in Yoruba but in the orthography, tones are marked on vowels and syllabic nasals. There are three basic tones of different pitch levels in Yoruba: High, Mid and Low. In the writing system, the High and Low are marked with (´) and (˘) respectively, over the vowel. The mid tone is generally unmarked except where there might be ambiguity or confusion.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES.

This course is a continuation of Beginning Yoruba. It picks up from where First Year Yoruba ends. Emphasis will be on reinforcing the basic structures that were learned during the Beginners' Year through oral and aural activities, and increasing the level of active vocabulary through more reading and writing. More authentic texts will be provided for reading activities to expose students to authentic Yorùbá writings and cultures. By the end of the session, students are expected to have reached the intermediate middle or intermediate high level in oral proficiency.

REQUIRED TEXTS.

Our main text for the course will be: Schleicher, A. Y. F, (1993) *Jé Ká Ka Yoràbá* New Haven & London: Yale University Press. (ISBN Number 0-300-07145-0). Get your personal copy of this textbook from the University Bookshop by 1 day of class. A Yoruba Dictionary is strongly recommended.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS.

To achieve our set objectives, regular class attendance, punctuality and active participation in class discussions are required. Also, we will be using the language laboratory once every week; lab day will be announced in class at appropriate time.

COURSE EVALUATION.

Attendance and Class participation: **10%**

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to have done the assignments for that day. The class attendance and participation grade will be based on whether the student is prepared for class or not. Students are encouraged to ask questions, participate in drills and discussions and volunteer answers. More than THREE absences will lower the class participation grade.

Course work (take-home assignments and class Quizzes): **20%**

Students will be given a number of take-home assignments and quizzes during the semester. There will be no make-up quizzes except for unavoidable circumstances.

Mid-Semester test **20%**

This will involve both written (**10%**) and oral (**10%**) presentations

Audio tape productions: **15%**

Students are encouraged to keep a personal audio journal in Yorùbá. The journal will be collected for grading twice each Semester.

Final Semester examination: **35%**

This will also involve both written (**20%**) and oral (**15%**) presentations

Grade Correspondence:

90-100 =A	70-74 =C
85-89 =B+	65-69 =D+
80-84 =B	60-64 =D
75-79 =C+	59-50 =E
	49-0 =F

General

Feel free to ask questions during class sessions so that you are not overwhelmed by the amount of information you will receive. However, if there are issues that cannot be resolved in class, you are encouraged to use my office hours or just send me an email. I look forward to a rewarding semester with you all. Don't forget to inform us of your birthday so that we can sing happy birthday in Yoruba as you mark the day.

INTERMEDIATE YORUBA I FALL SEMESTER

Weeks 1-2 (Monday August 31/ Sept. 2 to 4) **Week 2** September, 7th 9th 11th

Topic: More Greetings and review of basic concepts

Function: Greeting people on different occasions

Cultural Information: Use of “omo mi” and the importance of greetings. What do we learn about Yoruba culture from greetings?

Schleicher: **Preliminary Lesson**

Weeks 3&4 (September 14, 16 18th) **Week 4--** 21, 23rd 25th

Topic: Expressions that have to do with apartments, Houses, neighborhoods

Function: Describing one’s apartment or house

Grammar: Numbers expressing “each”, “both”, “all three”, etc. Qualifying words for descriptive verbs: the **verbs** “mu---wa” and “gbe---wa”

Schleicher: Lesson I

Weeks 5-6 28th 30th and **October 2nd** (**Week 6- October 5th 7th 9th**)

Topic: More on physical characteristics and personal traits

Function: Describing people’s physical characteristics and personal Traits

Grammar: More on adjectives and adverbial verbs, expressing the opposite form of an adjective, and adverbs

Reading: An essay on the attitudes of two siblings.

Schleicher: Lesson 2

Weeks 7&8 (October 12, 14, 16)*****Week 8** (19th 21st 23rd)

Topic: Seasons and Times (Igba ati akoko)

Function: Talking about seasons and holidays

Grammar: Expressing “being cold” or “it is cold”. Expressing reactions, feelings, and opinions. Emphatic possessive pronouns —.”temi “tiwo” “tiyin”, etc.

Reading: Essay on the three most important religions of Yoruba people

Schleicher: Lesson 3

Week 9 (October 26th 28th 30th)

Mid-Semester review and test

Weeks 10-11 (November 2nd 4th 6th) Week 11 – 9th 11th 13th)

Topic: Health (Ilera)

Function: Talking about one's health

Grammar: Expressing pain and illness, use of the negative maker “a!” and vowel elision

Reading: Yoruba folktale on Mr. Tortoise and his friend

Schleicher: Lesson 4

Weeks 12-13 (November)* 16th 18th 20th (Week 13th November 23rd 25th & Thanksgiving)**

Topic: More on the market system

Function: Talking about hawking one's products

Grammar: Use of “oni-” summary of question forms, difference between “eéloo” and “eleèlòó”

Reading: Essay on Yoruba market

Schleicher: Lesson 5

Weeks 14&15 (November, 30th December 2 & 4th Week 15 December 7th

Topic: Leisure time activities

Function: Talking about leisure time activities

Grammar: Unreal Conditional form “iba”

Reading: Folktale on Mr. Tortoise and the Elephant

Week 16 Final revision and exam.