

# SWAH 3010: Swahili Culture, History, and Civilization

FALL SEMESTER 2007

*This syllabus is a general plan for the course. It does not contain a schedule for individual class presentations. These will be added after the drop/add period. There might also be a need to deviate from this general plan. If that happens, announcement will be made in class.*

**Location:** Student Learning Center # 277.  
**Period:** 73 (11:00 am-12:15 pm) Tuesdays & Thursdays.  
**Instructor:** Dr. Lioba Moshi  
**Office hours:** Mondays & Fridays 10:00 am-11:00 am (or by appointment).  
321 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building  
**Contact Info:** (706-583-0575) or e-mail <moshi@uga.edu>.

## Course Objectives

The course will focus on specific aspects about the Swahili language, its history, its association with the politics of change in the region, its expansion, civilization, and culture. I will expose student to a wealth of information about the Swahili language including theories about its origin, ownership, its place in the world, what scholar's views on the archeology of the Swahili Coast, what was before emergency of the Swahili States, the effects of colonialism and its demise, issues of dependency and decolonization, and the prospects of its attaining a global status among the world languages.

## Methodology

The class format will reflect cooperative learning with all students required to participate in classroom discussion. There will be individual as well as group reading assignments. Individuals or groups will be asked to lead classroom discussion of the main issues of the day or week. There will also be occasions devoted video viewing and discussion.

## Requirements

- (1) Regular attendance and class participation
- (2) Reading assignments, and class discussions. Individuals will be required to prepare and present summaries and discussion questions from the assigned readings. The schedule will be provided after the drop/add period.
- (3) Individual projects. Each student will be required to do a project that reflects assigned readings individual library research, and the day to day classroom discussions.
- (4) A term paper (a write-up of the individual project).

## Expectations:

Students will have assigned readings, three quizzes, and a final paper that is a commentary of the assigned readings, individual library research, and the day to day classroom discussions.

### **Required readings:**

- Moshi, L. 2006. *“The Globalized World Languages: The Case of Kiswahili”*.  
Kusimba, C. 1999. *The Rise and Fall of Swahili States*. Rowman & Littlefield Pub Inc Publications, Lanham, MD (check bound copy at ProCopies & Baxter Street Bookstore).  
Mazrui, A.A. and Alamin Mazrui. 1999. *Political Culture of Language: Swahili, Society and the State*. The Institute of Global Vulture Studies (IGCS). Binghamton University, New York, NY (**order** at Borders Bookstore).

### **Videos (in-class viewing)**

- Waswahili: **Language and Culture**. UGA OISD Productions.  
Africa: **The Bible and the Gun**. Basil Davidson, Chicago Home Vision Production, c. 1984.  
The Africans: **The Nature of a Continent**. Ali Mazrui, Annenberg/CPB Project, c. 1986.

### **Required Supplies**

1. **4x6 Index cards** (one for each day of class). You will be required to write a brief summary of each day’s class discussion. The card will also be used to record your attendance and count towards your class participation grade.
2. **A Three Ring Binder** to be used for organizing handouts and other materials distributed or created for this class.

### **Academic Standards:**

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. For more information on academic honesty see:

<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

### **Grading Policy**

Students will receive cumulative points that will convert to a letter grade at the end of the semester. The following are the gradable parts:

1	Attendance (2 points) and class participation (3 points)	<b>40%</b>
2	Assigned class readings	<b>10%</b>
3	Quizzes	<b>30%</b>
5	Final Paper	<b>20%</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

***Note that work submitted after the deadline will not be graded.***

**Attendance Policy:** Because each class attended is graded, students will be responsible for any points lost due to classes missed. There will not be make ups for such losses except where an absentee results from an illness. In such a case, a doctors note will be required.

## Proposed Course Content & Schedule

August 16	Introductory remarks
August 21 & 23	Background: Geopolitical aspects of the Swahili language and Culture
August 28 & 30	Video viewing and discussions: Waswahili (English version: UGA Production): Episode 1 & 4 <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Historical Lamu</li><li>2. Coastal Cities</li></ol>
September 4 & 6	Video viewing and discussions: Waswahili (English version: UGA Production): Episode 2 & 3 <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Life by the sea shore</li><li>2. Coastal Activities</li></ol>
September 11	Video viewing and discussions: Waswahili (English version: UGA Production): Episode <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Musical Instruments and Dance</li></ol>

### ***September 13: Quiz***

September 18, 20 & 25: Discussions on Assigned Readings:

Kusimba, C.: *The Rise and Fall of Swahili States*.

1. The Place of the Swahili Coast in the World
2. The Archeology of the Swahili Coast
3. The Swahili Coast

September 27 & October 2: Video viewing and discussions: Africa: A PBS Production by Basil Davidson: ***Caravans of Gold***

Davidson traces the routes of the medieval gold trade, which reached from Africa to India and China in the east, and westward to the city states of Italy. African rulers grew rich and powerful. The coming of the Portuguese in 1498 heralded the end of the great African trade. Davidson discusses the destruction of Kilwa, one of the most prosperous cities on the East African Coast.

October 4, 9, and 11: Discussions on Assigned Readings:

Kusimba, C.: *The Rise and Fall of Swahili States*.

4. Before the Swahili States
5. The Swahili Civilization
6. The Colonial Period and the Demise of the Swahili States
7. Conclusion and Afterword

### ***October 16: Quiz***

October 18: Video viewing and discussions: The Africans: a PBS Production by Ali Mazrui: **The Nature of a continent.**

Mazrui examines Africa as the birthplace of humankind and discusses the impact of geography on African history, the role of the Nile in the origin of civilization and the introduction of Islam to Africa through its Arabic borders.

October 23, and 30: Discussions on Assigned Readings:  
Mazrui, A & A. Mazrui: *Political Culture of Language*  
Kiswahili and the Politics of Change

November 1 & 6: Discussions on Assigned Readings  
Mazrui, A & A. Mazrui: *Political Culture of Language*  
History of Kiswahili

November 8 & 13: Discussions on Assigned Readings  
Mazrui, A & A. Mazrui: *Political Culture of Language*  
Dependency and Decolonization

***November 15: Quiz***

November 20: Library Research

November 27: Video viewing and discussions: Waswahili (English version: UGA  
Production): Episode  
1. Language

November 29: Discussions on Assigned Readings:  
Moshi, L: Globalized World Languages: The Case of Kiswahili

December 4: General discussions

December 6: Work on assigned final paper

December 11: Submission of Final paper (no later than 12 noon)

**Note: Paper should be sent electronically as an attachment to an email to  
<moshi@uga.edu>**