

**SWAH 3020: Swahili Language and Culture**  
SPRING 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:** Hunter/Holmes Academic Building # 325.  
**Period:** 73 (11:00 am-12:15 pm) Tuesdays & Thursdays.  
**Instructor:** Dr. Lioba Moshi  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 PM -1:30 PM (or by appointment).  
321 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building  
**Contact Info:** (583-05754) or e-mail <moshi@uga.edu>.

**Course Objectives**

The course will explore aspects of the Swahili culture different lenses, showing how Swahili speakers seek to express the culture. To understand the culture fully, we will also look at how outside influences have impacted the indigenous Swahili culture.

**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. The class will also exploit audio visuals (e.g. artifacts, music CDs/DVDs and videos) that enhance the understanding of specific aspects of the language and how it is exploited to teach and spread the culture of the speakers.

**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:**

Mirza, Sarah and Margaret Strobel. *Three Swahili Women: Life Histories from Mombasa*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington & Indianapolis (1989).  
Askew, Kelly J. *Performing the Nation: Swahili Music and Cultural Politics in Tanzania*. The University of Chicago Press (2002), Chicago.  
Okot p'Bitek. *Song of Lawino*. East African Publishing House (1968). Nairobi, Kenya.  
Okot p'Bitek. *Song of Ocol*. East African Publishing House (19709). Nairobi, Kenya.

### **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)	40%
2	Assigned class readings	10%
3	Quizzes	30%
5	Final Paper	20%
	<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 doctor's note will be required.

### **Proposed Course Content & Schedule**

**Jan. 9:** Discussion of Syllabus and Course objectives

**Jan. 11 & 16:** Introductory remarks including some background comments on the geopolitical aspects of the Swahili language and Culture.

**January 18 – 30:** **Three Swahili Women**

**Jan. 18 & 23:** Chapter 1

**Jan. 25** Chapter 2

**Jan. 30:** Chapter 3

*Feb 1: QUIZ # 1*

**February 1 – April 10: The role of Music in the Swahili language and Culture**

**Feb. 1** **Invited lecture**

**Feb. 6:** Chapter 1

**Feb. 8 & 13:** Chapter 2

**Feb. 16 & 20** Chapter 3

**Feb 22** Music Video on Taarab

**Feb. 27 & Mar. 1:** Chapter 4

*March 1: TAKE HOME QUIZ # 2*

**Mar. 6 & 8:** Music Video on Taarab

**March 12 – 18:** **SPRING BREAK**

Mar. 20 & 22: Chapter 5  
Mar. 27: Chapter 6  
Mar. 29 & Apr. 3: Chapter 7  
Apr. 10: Chapter 8  
*Apr. 12 QUIZ # 3*

**Apr. 12: Final Paper Abstracts Due**

**April 17 – 24: Cultural Influences**

Apr. 17 & 19: Song of Lawino  
April 24: Song of Okol  
April 26: Wrap-UP  
Apr. 30: Classes end

**Thursday May 3:** 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>*