

Intensive Language Study: Acholi

ACHO 1000 (3 credits, 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Uganda: Post-Conflict Transformation

Course Description and Methodology

The purpose of the language study course is to give students the necessary fundamentals of Acholi language. Having a basic understanding of the language will facilitate students' deeper understanding of Acholi culture and will help them to more effectively integrate into the communities for which they live. The course consists of 45 hours of instruction taught by native speakers and will concentrate on offering students situational texts for the purposes of functionality. For example: greetings, describing oneself, market language, asking for directions and other 'functional' language will give students the necessary grounding to use the language in day-to-day interactions as well as a framework from which they can continue further with their language study on the ground. Assignments are designed to compel students to learn independently and to try and use the language in the community and with their homestay families.

Course Objectives

- To provide students with basic skills in Acholi so as to facilitate daily function in Ugandan life
- To expose students to cross-cultural nuances of language in the broader sense, thereby enhancing their ability to communicate more effectively
- To give students another avenue through which to learn about Ugandan culture through the lens of language

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should have attained the following:

- A basic understanding of Acholi so as to allow day-to-day usage in typical contexts.
- A greater understanding of Ugandan culture through the use of the local language
- A greater capacity to function effectively and independently in Uganda

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Syllabus*

Course Requirements

Readings

You are responsible for all the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The readings will help you place the classes in their context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class. They are not necessarily tailor-made for each and every class.

Blackings, Mairi John. *Acholi English, English Acholi Dictionary*. München: LINCOM Europa, 2009

PLEASE NOTE: COURSE CONTENTS, LECTURERS AND READINGS MAY BE MODIFIED AS NEEDED. SHOULD ANY CHANGE OF CLASS TOPICS OR LECTURERS BE NECESSARY, STUDENTS WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Intensive Language Study: Acholi Assignments

Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation and presentation of evidence.

Instructors' assessment of class work, homework, and participation:	70%
Directors' evaluation of participation and use of Acholi beyond the classroom:	30%

Grading Scale: The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64	F

Grading Criteria

An "A" grade for an assignment entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency, and the provision of factual, numerical and/or historical evidence. In terms of Class Participation, an

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“A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Academic Seminar lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the students` participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Student Expectations

Class Participation

Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Academic Seminar lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to you at Orientation.

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