



Although only 5 million or so people speak Swahili as their mother tongue, it is used as a lingua franca in much of East Africa.

The total number of Swahili speakers exceeds 120 million.

It serves as a national, or official language, of four nations: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is spoken in numerous others.

Swahili has vocabulary derived from Arabic through more than twelve centuries of contact with Arabic-speaking inhabitants of the coast of eastern Africa. It has also incorporated Persian, German, Portuguese, English, and French words into its vocabulary through contact during the past five centuries.

It is a member of the Bantu language group, similar to Zulu and Kongo.

For more information

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SWAHILI
Boston University



ABOUT SWAHILI

Swahili spread along the east African coast by means of the Arab slave trade. The origin of the language lies with a Swahili ethnic group that lived along the coast and engaged in its own maritime trade prior to taking up willing commerce with the Arabs.

Arab traders, known to have had extensive contact with the coastal peoples from at least the 6th century C.E., later influenced the spread of Islam along the East African coast from at least the 9th century. There is also cultural evidence of early Persian (or Arabo-Persian) settlement on Zanzibar from Shiraz in present-day Iran.

Many of the world's institutions have responded to Swahili's growing prominence. It is one of the languages broadcast on world radio stations such as the BBC World Service, Voice of America, Deutsche Welle, Voice of Russia, China Radio International, Radio France Internationale, Radio Sudan, and Radio South Africa.



Source: <http://www.tumblr.com/tagged/kangas>

Courses & Minors

Swahili is the most popular African language taught at BU. All language courses use the communicative approach and develop proficiency in the four skills—oral expression, listening comprehension, reading, and writing—while also emphasizing cultural understanding. Swahili language courses can be used to meet the CAS language requirements.

LE 111-112 First Year Swahili
LE 211-212 Second Year Swahili
LE 311-312 Third Year Swahili
LE 411-412 Fourth Year Swahili
LE 491/492 - Directed Study: Swahili

Two Minors: African Studies or African Languages & Literature

Each semester more than 75 courses are offered across campus with at least 25% Africa content. Consider a few options:

ID 116 - Africa Today: The Beat of Popular Culture
AN 312 - Peoples & Cultures of Africa
MU 340 - Musical Cultures of the World

HI 348 - Colonialism in Africa: Impact & Aftermath

IR 351 - Africa in International Politics

PO 378 - International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa

AH 429 - Photography & Africa: Race & Representation

AA 588 - Women, Power, & Culture in Africa

AN 524 - Language & Culture Contacts in Contemporary Africa

AN 532 - Literacy & Islam in Africa

AN 593, 594 - Seminar: Topics in Cultural Anthropology

NEW SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

Religion, Politics and Identity in East Africa
bu.edu/abroad
617-353-9888

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships for Undergraduates (FLAS)

Get paid to study Zulu or any other African language at BU! FLAS awards cover \$10,000 tuition and \$2,500 stipend per semester. Applicants are eligible after their first year of language study. Applications are due annually on February 15th.

