



About Xhosa

Xhosa is one of 11 official languages of South Africa. Nelson Mandela is its most famous Xhosa speaker.

It is spoken in South Africa and Lesotho, in the regions of the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape.

Xhosa is the most widely distributed African language in South Africa, while the most widely spoken is Zulu. Xhosa is the second most-common home language in South Africa as a whole after Zulu and is spoken by approximately 8 million people—about 18% of the South African population. Xhosa is, like most languages in the Bantu family, a tonal language. This means the same sequence of consonants and vowels can have different meanings when said with a rising or falling or high or low intonation.

For more
information

Prof. Fallou Ngom
Director,
African Language Program
fngom@bu.edu
617-353-3673
<http://www.bu.edu/africa/alp/>

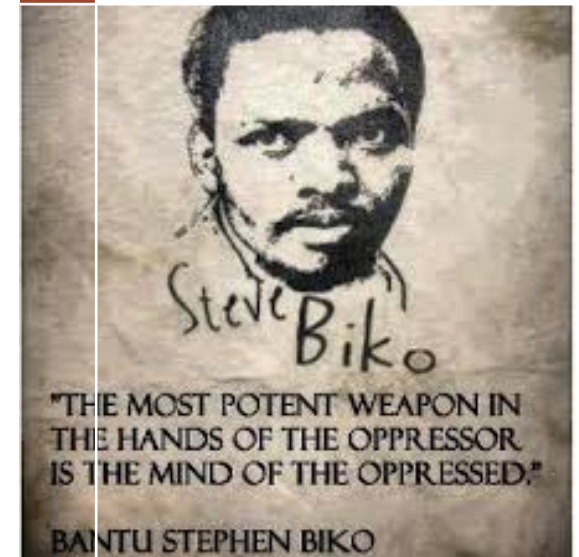
**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

African Studies Center

232 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215
www.bu.edu/africa

Xhosa

Boston University

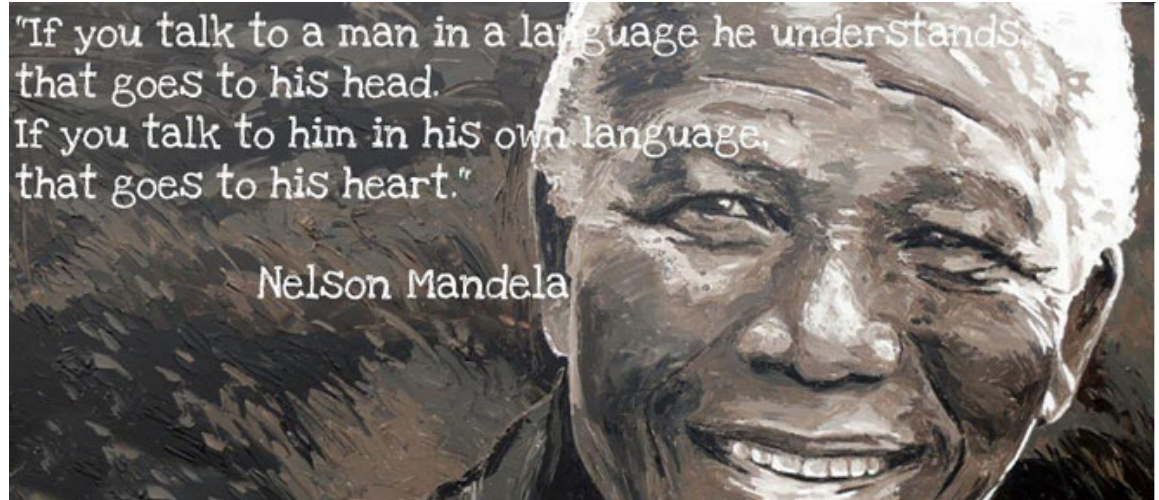


Steve Biko, student activist and community leader, was killed on September 12, 1977, while in police custody in South Africa. The above image is of a t-shirt quoting a central tenet of black consciousness, a philosophy Biko articulated. Perhaps you've heard the song by Peter Gabriel called "Biko"? Xhosa was Biko's and Mandela's first language.

Did you know?

One of the most distinctive features of Xhosa is the prominence of click consonants. The word "Xhosa" begins with a click—an obstruent, a lateral consonant produced by releasing the airstream at the side of the tongue.

The best-known performer of Xhosa songs outside South Africa is Miriam Makeba. Her "Click Song #1" ("Qongqothwane" in Xhosa) is beloved for its many click sounds.



Courses & Minors

Xhosa 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. Xhosa language courses can be used to meet the CAS language requirements.

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

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

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships for Undergraduates (FLAS)

Get paid to study Xhosa 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.