COURSE TITLE: LEVEL 1A YORUBA
SEMINAR: I
LEVEL: ALL LEVELS
PREREQUISITES: NONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The Level 1A Yoruba course will help students develop their communicative skills in the Yoruba language and explore culturally appropriate behaviour in basic, social interactions, especially related to everyday situations.

Students of this course are not required to have any prior formal knowledge of the language. This class is specifically designed to provide beginners with the fundamental skills that will assist in their mastery of the language. Yoruba is a tonal language as such, the class will sensitize the students to the importance of tonal accents on vowels in words, their meaning and contextual usage. To this end the focus will be on word articulation, contextual usage and cultural values while also developing the four skills involved in language learning (i.e. reading, writing, listening and speaking).

There are four (4) hours of class per week over the course of the semester. Throughout the semester, students will be guided in a way that will make them take responsibility for their own learning as they slowly gain autonomy in their language-learning experiences. They are expected to spend time on self-study to prepare for classes and to review and consolidate work done in class.

Upon completion of this course, student should have the knowledge and skills and demonstrate the attitude expected at the level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) https://bit.ly/1SrYDpO.

COURSE RATIONALE:
The aim of this course, as every other language course at the CLL, is to enable students to participate in the target language at the particular level. It is designed for people who are interested in interacting with Yoruba people in a way that will permit them to pursue social, religious and other goals in the Yoruba society. Thus attention is paid to the way students grasp and recall the alphabet, vowel and tonal accents and sound as this is fundamental to learning and understanding the language.
After becoming familiar with the course structure and expectations, as well as the basics of the Yoruba language, students will be introduced to the writing system. Whether they are speaking, reading, or writing, the fundamentals are crucial to determining how well they do in this class. Once students are accustomed to articulating Yoruba words correctly and speaking in Yoruba in class, they will be further encouraged to build on this until they are comfortable using the language in front of strangers. The course establishes a basic foundation that will allow students to continue their studies in Yoruba. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be eligible to begin Level 1B Yoruba.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:
Name: Oluwakemi Šomorin
Office address: Tutor’s Room, Ground Floor, CLL
Phone: 662-2002 ext. 83929
E-mail: olukokemi2@gmail.com
Office hours: By appointment

LETTER TO THE STUDENT
Dear Student,

Welcome to Level 1A Yoruba! We are going to have a busy and productive semester filled with exciting language and cultural activities. Throughout the semester we shall be using a variety of resources to help you develop accurate pronunciation and understanding of the Yoruba language and culture. I look forward to working with each of you!

A student of Yoruba will require a longer instructional period to reach the higher proficiency levels, in comparison to the time required by a learner of a Category I language such as French or Spanish. You should plan to spend twice as much time in self-study, working on the language, as you spend in class. Language learning can be challenging, so do not hesitate to ask for help. Together, we can work through the difficulties.

Enjoy your Yoruba language adventure!

Warm regards,
Your tutor

CONTENT:
The course focuses on developing the student’s articulation of Yoruba words through learning of the alphabet, vowel and tonal sounds. It uses situations and activities that will facilitate the students’ language learning process. Below is an indicative list of communicative skills and grammar the course will cover.

The course calendar presents information on all aspects of the course in greater detail.
Communicative skills
- Topics such as introductions, greetings, description of people, counting from 1-10

Grammar
- Alphabet, vowels, tonal accent and sounds, nouns, pronouns, verb forms; tenses, adjectives, conjunctions and question forms.

GOALS/AIMS:
This course is designed to help students:
- Develop basic competence in the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Acquire basic grammatical concepts
- Develop an initial ability to communicate in Yoruba
- Gain insight into aspects of Yoruba life and culture
- Perform successfully in real communicative contexts, and improve their comprehension of what a Yoruba-speaking person is saying and feeling
- Increase their Yoruba vocabulary and introduce the terminology used in different contexts
- Complete meaningful tasks, through written forms and conversation models, and encourage written and oral production in the Yoruba language
- Noticeably improve their oral and written comprehension of Yoruba – A1 level
- Develop their cultural awareness in order to be able to get the sense of what is said and what is not said.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:
This course intends to help students to perform at the level of the CEFR Basic User A1. The A1 User can:
- Articulate the Yoruba alphabet in any creative way they choose
- Recognize the 3 basic tonal accents and articulate its sounds
- Inscribe tonal accents on vowels
- Know the contextual meaning of words with different and identical tonal accents
- Understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at satisfying needs of a concrete type
- Introduce him/herself and others and ask/answer question about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows, etc
- Interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of this course, student will be able to:

- Identify some basis elements of the sound and writing system and the grammar of the target language
- Recognize familiar words and phrases concerning themselves and their immediate surroundings in spoken language
- Interact orally in a simple way to address their immediate needs or discuss familiar topics
- Use the language to communicate while carrying out a limited range of predictable and simple language tasks
- Give basic personal information in written form
- Write the language with the correct tonal accents
- Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of some elements of Yoruba culture

ASSIGNMENTS:
Typical assignments. Students will be required to:

- Listen and respond to basic information, e.g. about oneself and family, greetings, farewells, expectations, expressions of politeness, etc.
- Recognize and respond to greetings using simple salutations; ask and respond to simple questions; use simple sentences to describe oneself, family members, friends, etc.
- Identify specific information such as numbers, colours, food in short texts, etc.
- Complete simple biographical information such as name, age, etc.
- Write basic words with the correct accent

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment*</th>
<th>100% in-course testing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1*</td>
<td>50% of the overall mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2*</td>
<td>50% of the overall mark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Listening 30%, speaking 30%, reading 20%, writing 20%

Written tests will use multiple formats e.g. limited response, multiple choice, or short answers as appropriate to the skill/sub-skill being tested. Speaking will be tested through oral activities.

COURSE EVALUATION:
Summative evaluation will be conducted using The UWI’s SECL System. The CLL will disseminate a mid- and end-of-semester student feedback questionnaire.

TEACHING/LEARNING STRATEGIES:
Interactive sessions: While some of the class will involve direct teaching, language classes are not lecture-type classes but sessions requiring the active participate of all learners. Classes will
therefore be highly interactive with teachers using and encouraging the use of the target language.

**Use of target language:** A defining characteristic of a modern communication language program is the use of target language as a gateway to the study of the societies and cultures in which it is used. Student will be expected to recognize and use Yoruba in a ways which are consistent with the competence of an A1 User.

**Development of learner autonomy:** An explicit expectation of language students is a measure of learner autonomy and responsibilities for the development of their language competence. This autonomy will be guided and developed alongside their classroom learning. At this level, for example students are encouraged to develop and apply appropriate language–learning strategies to support communication in Yoruba. Students’ learning experience will usually involve exposure to various forms of language-learning technology, both in and out of class.

**Collaborative work:** Finally, students will be expected to work in cooperative and collaborative ways with an attitude of mutual consideration and respect towards their peers.

**RESOURCES:**

**Texts:** Required
1. Colloquial Yoruba: The complete course for Beginners. Schleicher Anotnia Y.F.
2. Yoruba Work Book for Beginners: Somorin Oluwakemi

**Apps**
1. Yoruba101 for iPhone By Adebayo Adegbembo
2. iSabi Yoruba Plus by UnatezeSoft, LLC
3. talkasoft.yoruba_language

**Students can access additional materials in the Self-Access Facility (SAF) in CLL (1st Floor)**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Typical assignments
Students will be required to:
- Listen and respond to basic information e.g. familiar words about oneself and family, greetings, farewells, expressions of politeness etc.
- Recognise and respond to greetings using simple salutations; ask and respond to simple questions; use simple sentences to describe one’s self, family members, friends etc.
- Identify specific information such as numbers, colours, food on signs, notices, posters, in short texts, etc.
- Complete simple biographical information, such as name, age etc.
### COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Unit And Session Topics</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Evaluation And Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Alphabet 1: Introduction** | 1. Introduction to Yoruba Language  
2. Learning the Yoruba Alphabet and pronouncing letters | Lecture  
Demonstrations  
Videos  
Powerpoint | Oral Repetition |
| **Alphabet 2** | 1. Vowels and Consonants  
2. Tonal markings  
3. Simple word construction (2-letter words) | Lecture  
Demonstrations  
Powerpoint | Oral Repetition  
In class group activities |
| **Ikini 1- Greetings** | 1. Introduction to greetings  
2. Greetings for different times of the day  
3. Basic general greetings  
4. Saying goodbye | Lecture  
Demonstrations  
Discussions | Oral and Written in class and home activities |
| **Parts of Speech – Nouns and Pronouns** | 1. Using the alphabet to make a noun list  
2. Subject pronouns  
3. Introduction to simple verbs  
4. Making simple 3-4 word sentences  
5. Animals | Lecture  
Demonstrations  
Use of Text 1 | Oral and Written in class and home activities |
| **Parts of Speech – Verbs and Adjectives** | 1. Verb tenses (past, present and future)  
2. Counting from 1-10  
3. Colours  
4. Attributes of an individual or thing  
5. Body Parts | Lecture  
Demonstrations  
Discussions  
Handouts | Oral and Written in class and home activities  
Worksheets |
| **Parts of Speech – Conjunctions and Interrogatives** | 1. General conjunctions (ati, ṣugbon)  
2. Introduction to food  
Demonstrations  
Discussions  
Handouts | Oral and Written in class and home activities  
Worksheets |
| **Introduce yourself – Ask and Respond** | 1. Name  
2. Age  
3. Address  
4. Write a 1-2 paragraphs about yourself  
5. Who makes up Ńbi (family) | Lecture  
Demonstrations  
Discussions | Oral and Written in class and home activities  
Essay writing |
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Attendance is compulsory, not only because students may be debarred from Test 2 if they are present for fewer than 75% of the classes, but also because language learning is incremental. Students need to work at their language learning regularly, both in class and out of class to consolidate what they have learnt.

Here are a few tips for studying for this course:
- Use all the resources at your disposal—your peers, your teachers and online materials to help you improve and build your confidence.
- Set small achievable goals for each week of the course.
- Review your work and assess yourself on a weekly basis, so that you do not become overwhelmed by having to revise too much material at any one time.
- Remember to spend some time on all the skills.
- Listen to Yoruba music and watch movies in Yoruba much as possible.

GRADING SYSTEM:
The following is The UWI’s mark scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Mark%</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Mark%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>90 and over</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>55-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>50-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>F1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>40-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>F2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>30-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>F3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>