

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, ST. AUGUSTINE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION
CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING**

COURSE DOCUMENTATION

COURSE TITLE: LEVEL 1A YORUBA

SEMESTER: I

LEVEL: I

PREREQUISITES: NONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students of this course are not required to have any prior formal knowledge of the language. This course is specifically designed to provide beginners with the fundamental skills that will assist in their mastery of the language. It 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. Yoruba is a tonal language as such, students will be sensitized to the importance of tonal accents on vowels in words, their meaning and contextual usage. To this end the focus of each synchronised online session 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 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.

COORDINATOR INFORMATION:

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Tutor information

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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

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STUDENTS

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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/answers 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

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

Assessment for this course consists of 100% in-course tests and participation, which is divided into 45% Test 1, 50% Test 2 and 5% class participation. Both tests 1 and 2 assess the four skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Test 1 Week 7 (45%)	Oral Test 1 (15 marks)
	Writing Task 1 (10 marks)
	Reading Quiz 1 (10 marks)
	Listening Quiz 1(10 marks)
Test 2 Weeks 13 (50%)	Listening Quiz 2 (15 marks)
	Reading Quiz 2 (10 marks)
	Writing Task 2 (10 marks)
	Oral Test 2 (15 marks)
Participation (5 %)	Participation (5 marks)

1. Test 1 45% (Week 7)

- Reading test 1 – Students must complete a reading test in class in Week 7. **10 marks**
- Writing test 1 – Students must complete a writing test in class in Week 7. **10 marks**
- Oral test 1 – In pairs, students will complete a role play exercise in response to a scenario. Students will be given time to prepare the role play. The test will take place in Week 7. **15 marks**
- Listening test 1 – Students must complete a listening test in class in Week 7. **10 marks**

2. Test 2 (Week 13): 50%

- Reading test 2 **10 marks**
- Listening test 2 **15 marks**
- Writing test 2 **10 marks**
- Oral test 2 **15 marks**

3. Participation: 5%

Participation and attendance. **5 marks**

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION RUBRIC	
5 marks	Student attended 10 or more sessions and was punctual. Student makes a great effort to contribute when called upon and takes the initiative to contribute actively to any discussions or activities. Student’s questions and comments during sessions (written/oral) demonstrate excellent preparation. Student does not interrupt others during discussions and demonstrates excellent netiquette.
4 marks	Student attended 8 or 9 sessions and was punctual. Student regularly contributes to class discussions and activities. Student’s questions and comments during sessions (written/oral) often demonstrate good preparation. Student does not interrupt others during discussions and demonstrates good netiquette.
3 marks	Student attended 6 or 7 sessions and was mostly punctual. Student sporadically contributes to class discussions and activities. Some prompting needed to encourage participation. Student does not interrupt others during discussions and demonstrates adequate netiquette.
2 marks	Student attended 5 sessions. Student only contributes to sessions when repeatedly prompted and is generally unwilling to contribute. Student does not interrupt others during discussions and demonstrates adequate netiquette.
1 mark	Student attended less than 5 sessions. Student’s lack of questions or comments demonstrate a lack of preparation for the session. Student is hardly ever willing to contribute. Student does not demonstrate proper netiquette.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The best way to develop and improve your language skills is to always use your own words and draw on your knowledge to complete the tasks assigned. It is unacceptable to copy responses from another classmate for any assignment or copy a body or part of text from translation programs. Should copying occur, the student(s) involved will either lose a significant number of points on their assignment or receive a grade of zero for the task.

TEACHING/LEARNING STRATEGIES:

This course is designed to develop the level of communicative competence of the students by using, the textbook, exercises designed for their level as well as authentic materials where appropriate. It also sensitizes participants to some aspects of Yoruba culture. The course will place special emphasis on developing communicative skills (listening and speaking). Authentic audio material as well as material tailored for beginners will be used while we will work on reading and writing skills, a communicative approach will be during every session.

Remember that this class is online as such learning strategies will include the following:

Synchronous Online Sessions

These sessions include but are not limited to:

- Group work and group discussions
- Interviews and role plays
- Vocabulary and grammar drills
- Use of recordings
- Exercises from the textbook

- Online exercises and quizzes
- Discussions on pertinent cultural aspects of the language

Interactive sessions: While some of the class will involve direct teaching, language classes are not lecture-type classes but sessions requiring the active participation 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 language in a way 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.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Summative evaluation will be conducted using The UWI's SECL System. The CLL will disseminate a mid- and/or end-of-semester student feedback questionnaire.

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 Adegbenbo
2. iSabi Yoruba Plus by UnatezeSoft, LLC
3. talkasoft.yoruba_language

COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Unit And Session Topics	Methodology	Evaluation And Assessments
	Ikini : Greeting		
1 st	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to greetings 2. Greeting for different periods of the day 3. Basic general Greetings 1. Saying good bye 	Lecture Demonstrations Videos Powerpoint	Oral Repetition Written and home activities
	Alphabet 1		
2 nd	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Yoruba Alphabet and the letter pronunciation 2. Vowels and consonant 	Lecture video Demonstrations Powerpoint	Oral Repetition In class group activities
	Alphabet		
3 rd	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Tonal Markings 4. Introductions to some simple Yoruba words: Animal, birds, things and family 	Lecture Demonstrations Discussions	Oral and written in class and home activities
	Parts of Speech – Nouns and Pronouns		
4 th – 6 th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductions to some simple Yoruba words: Animal, birds, things and family 2. Subject Pronouns 3. Introduction to simple verbs 4. Making simple 3–4-word sentences 	Lecture Demonstrations Use of Text 1	Oral and Written in class and home activities
	Parts of Speech – Verbs and Adjectives		
7 th – 8 th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verb tenses (past or present or future) 2. Counting from 1-10 3. Colours 4. Attributes of an individual or thing 5. Body Parts in Yoruba 	Lecture Demonstrations Discussions Handouts	Oral and Written in class and home activities Worksheets
	Parts of Speech – Conjunctions and Interrogatives		
9 th -10 th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General conjunctions (ati , şugbon) 2. Introduction to food and things in the house 3. Kini? and Tani? Nibo 	Lecture Demonstrations Discussions Handouts	Oral and Written in class and home activities Worksheets
	Introduce yourself – Ask and respond		
11 th – 12 th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name 2. Age 3. Address 4. Write a 1-2 paragraphs about yourself 5. Who makes up Ebi (family) 	Lecture Demonstrations Discussions	Oral and Written in class and home activities Essay writing
FINAL TEST - Reading, Speaking, Writing & Listening			

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Attendance is compulsory, not only because students may be debarred from the final test 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:

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