

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

COURSE DOCUMENTATION

COURSE TITLE: Let's Talk Yoruba

NO. OF HOURS: 20 (2.5 hours per week for 8 weeks)

SEMESTER: May - July

PREREQUISITES: NONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Let's Talk Yoruba will help students develop their communicative skills in the Yoruba language and explore culturally appropriate behavior in basic, social interactions, especially related to everyday situations. Yoruba is a tonal language and as such, each online session will sensitize the students to the importance of tonal accents on vowels in words, their meaning and contextual usage. The primary 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). As this is a conversation course, emphasis will be placed on oral comprehension and production, as well as on the analysis of all sort of texts and dialogues. In this way, the course aims to strengthen students' performance in communicative and immersion scenarios of Yoruba as a foreign language.

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 fundamental skills, laying the foundation for their future mastery of the language. Previous students of Yoruba desirous of refreshing their speaking skills are also welcome. Over the eight-week period (20 hours), students will be introduced to simple phrases and key vocabulary and given many opportunities to interact online. They will be encouraged to be proactive so as to develop their autonomy and confidence in the target language.

COURSE RATIONALE:

This course will give students the opportunity to study one of the region's heritage languages. Students of Yoruba develop a better understanding of this culture and heritage, which are evident during carnival through calypso, steel pan and dance. The primary objective is to provide students with the basic communicative skills necessary to function in predictable everyday situations and to be able to connect with the international Yoruba-speaking community for professional, social or religious reasons. Students will continue to acquire learning strategies to support them in these endeavors.

Let's Talk Yoruba will also provide opportunities for students continuing on from Level 1B and 2A Yoruba to review and strengthen their knowledge of previous content. 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.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name of instructor: Mrs OluwaKemi Somorin

Office address: Tutors Office, Ground floor, Centre for Language Learning

Email address: oluwakemi.somorin@sta.uwi.edu, cc: olukokemi1@gmail.com

Office hours: Mondays 4:00pm – 4:30pm and Saturdays 12:00 noon – 12:40pm
(virtual appointments only)

LETTER TO THE STUDENT

Dear Student,

Welcome to Let's Talk 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, including technology, 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 requires a longer instructional period to reach 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 during our synchronous sessions.

Language learning can be challenging. Do not hesitate to ask for help. Do not be afraid to make mistakes. Together, we can work through the difficulties. Enjoy your Yoruba language adventure!

Warm regards,
Your tutor

GOALS/AIMS:

This course seeks to strengthen students in listening and speaking skills framed within the [CEFR A1](#) level and [mid-Novice](#) level of American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Proficiency Guidelines 2012. At this level, learners are expected to understand the main points of clear, standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in daily life. The student can communicate in a simple way on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. The student can describe themselves and others, provide personal details, inscribe tonal accents on vowels, demonstrate an understanding of the contextual meaning of words with different and identical tonal accents.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, student will be able to:

- Understand speech about familiar topics and activities (personal and professional life, society, culture);
- Interact orally in a simple way on the following topics: introductions, greetings, food, describing people, places and things, expressing likes and dislikes;
- Understand elements of Yoruba grammar and syntax, such as: the alphabet, vowels, tonal accent and sounds, nouns, pronouns, verb forms, tenses, adjectives, prepositions, and question forms;
- Give basic personal information in written form;
- Write the language using the appropriate tonal accents;
- Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of some elements of Yoruba culture.

ONLINE SESSIONS

These sessions will consist of a wide-range of interactive activities, which include but are not limited to:

- pair work and group discussions
- interviews and role play
- vocabulary and grammar drills
- discussions on the cultural aspects of the language
- games (Kahoot, Bingo)

COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Content: Unit and Session Topics	Practice
Week 1	Introduction to the course and self	Learn to greet in Yoruba language
	<p>Introduction: Let's greet and introduce ourselves in Yoruba.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Time of the day and accompany greetings. 2. Basic greetings for different times of the day. 3. Culture corner: Which gestures accompany these greetings? 4. Introduce yourself 	<p>How to greet a peer and someone older and in a position of authority.</p> <p>Learn the different times of a day in Yoruba.</p> <p>Tell us about yourself.</p>
Week 2	Introducing self . : Continue	

Week 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do I introduce myself? 2. What to considered before we introduce ourselves? <p>A brief introduction to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vowels and Consonants. 2. Tonal markings, tonal accents, and their importance. 3. Pronunciation drills with some two and three syllable pronouns, nouns and verb words. 	<p>Ta ni e? Who are you? Tell us about yourself Kini Oruko re Kini o feran Nibo ni oungebe Nibo ni o tiwa</p> <p>Introduction to some noun and verbs that are similar but pronounced differently because of tonal accents.</p> <p>Use some verbs and nouns in sentences.</p>
Week 3-8	Let's Celebrate!	
	<p>This topic will explore some celebrations among Yoruba people. We will discuss some of the activities performed and enjoyed before and during the celebrations.</p> <p>LET'S START!!!!</p>	
Week 3	1. Introduction to Greetings before and during celebration.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to greetings. • Basic, general greetings. • Saying goodbye. 	
	2. Going to the Market	
	<p>What are we buying? A celebration is around the corner, what should we buy?</p> <p>Going to the market will introduce you to nouns, pronouns and verbs, and expressions associated with the market and preparation for a celebration. We will list and discuss two celebrations among Yoruba people.</p>	<p>Which market are you going to? Nibo lo wa ?</p> <p>Kini of fe ra ? What will you buy at the market?</p> <p>Kini o fe se During a celebration?</p>
Week 4.	Let's Buy Aso!!	
	<p>Aso is cloth/clothes/outfit in Yoruba language. Let's discuss different aso worn during celebrations.</p>	<p>Practice</p> <p>After watching the video , what outfit will you wear at /to the celebration ?</p>

	Parts of Speech that will be discussed – Pronouns, Noun, and Verbs. Let’s describe the outfit we want to wear using Oor Adjective	
Week 5	Let’s buy Aso and Eat	
	<p>We will recap last week’s class. Today we will describe the colours of outfits and numbers.</p> <p>Let’s discuss different colours of aso worn during celebrations.</p> <p>Parts of speech that will be discussed – pronouns, nouns, verbs, and adjectives</p>	What colour outfit will you wear and how many?
Week 5	Let’s Eat	
Week 5	<p>Food - ounje is very important and during any celebration ounje plays an important role. Now let us learn some of the food cooked and served during celebrations or festivals.</p> <p>Parts of speech – pronouns, nouns, adjectives and verbs.</p>	During your celebration what are you going to cook and serve?
Week 6	Let's eat and meet someone.	
	<p>Recap last class on food. Today we will describe the food using simple oro aponle. Oro aponle are words that give us additional information about something such as colour, temprament and attributes.</p> <p>We will also discuss how to describe people or someone such as your friend or family member.</p>	
Week 7	Let’s meet someone	Who did you meet today?
	Meeting people allows you to greet, ask for someone you know and describe them using simple oro aponle (adjectives) and tell us where they live.	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know how to use vocabulary that deals with family nomenclature such as egbon, aburo, iya, baba, ìyá agba and baba agba. 2. Describe cultural activities and values. <p>Parts of speech – nouns, interrogative words, Oro Aponle and pronouns.</p>	
Week 8	Getting direction and going places.	Identify a place of worship and describe its location.
	<p>Know how to give directions, and speak about different locations especially in relation to places of worship for festivals and celebrations.</p> <p>Part of speech: Oro aponle and prepositions.</p>	

Material will be uploaded to the chosen platform.

Tutor will give feedback at appropriate times.

Award of certificates of attendance (Max. 20 hours can be awarded).