NEW YORK UNIVERSITY IN GHANA  ASANTE TWI WEEKLY SYLLABUS FOR STUDENTS 2011/2012  ACADEMIC YEAR   (JANUARY – MAY 2012)
(A 4 CREDIT- INTENSIVE COURSE)

TITLE OF COURSE: LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY COURSE (ASANTE TWI)

COURSE  CODE:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a language course designed to provide basic communicative competence in oral and written Twi for beginners. It focuses on the structure of the language as well as the culture of the people. The areas covered include: (i) oral drills; (ii) orthography; (iii) written exercises; (iv) translation from English to Twi and from Twi to English; (v) reading and comprehension; (vi) conversation and narration involving dialogues, greetings, description of day to day activities and bargaining); (vii) Grammar (parts of speech—nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, particles, determiners, tense/aspect, and question forms); (viii) Composition writing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To help learners acquire the skills in language learning mostly listening and speaking and later, reading, writing and translating so that upon completion of the course at the end of the semester, the students will be able to function in the language effectively in most formal and informal conversations.

2. To help learners acquire the basic grammatical structures of the language so that upon completion of the course at the end of the semester, the students will be able to communicate with a great deal of fluency and grammatical accuracy.

3. To provide learners with an insight into the culture and customs of the Ghanaian language speaking people as expressed in the language and compare it with their own.
WHAT TO ACHIEVE AT THE END OF THE COURSE

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Give greetings and respond to greetings.
- Initiate conversations and use appropriate farewells to close conversations.
- Know variations of different expressions in Twi.
- Form sentences in Twi in all Tense/Aspects.
- Ask and tell the day of the week and the corresponding day names in Twi.
- Go to the market and ask for vegetables, fruits, bread, meat etc. and can also bargain when appropriate.
- Talk about food preferences and buy food of your choice from the street, market, “chop bar” or a restaurant.
- Negotiate for a ride in a taxi and get a fair price.
- Make a social introduction of someone else and also give a brief speech to introduce yourself.
- Count up to 100 in the language and use the numbers in everyday conversation.
- Understand and correctly respond to questions about your marital status, nationality, occupation, age, place of birth etc.
- Use all the WH- question words to ask questions in the language.
- Say simple sentences in the negative in all Tense/Aspects in Twi.
- Translate simple sentences from the English language to Twi.
- Write a composition about himself or simple sentences on conventional topics.
- Use the language well enough to assist a newcomer in all the above.

GRADING SYSTEM

The course will be graded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take home assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final Exam:</td>
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<td>(a) Written</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>(b) Oral</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**COURSE HANDBOOK**


Institute of African Studies. University of Ghana, Legon

**OTHERS:** See Pages 8-9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK ONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greeting formalities.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Introduction to the Akan Language and the people.</td>
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<td>4. Useful everyday classroom expressions.</td>
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<td>5. Variation of certain Twi expressions.</td>
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<th>WEEK TWO</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expressions relating to everyday activities in the house</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Expressions relating to everyday activities in the house such as taking one’s bath, saying goodnight, invitation at meals, saying congratulations, extending condolences, etc.</td>
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<td>2. Taking leave and saying goodbye.</td>
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<td>3. Occasional and Festive greetings.</td>
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<td>(See Unit 1, Sections 2 of the Handbook)</td>
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<th>WEEK THREE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Food:</strong> General and specific including buying and bargain</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Food types. (fresh food, prepared food etc)</td>
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<td>2. Meal preferences.</td>
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<td>3. Verbs associated with some food items,</td>
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<td>(See page 36 of the handbook)</td>
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<td>4. Specific food for: Festivals, special people like twins and puberty rites.</td>
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<td>5. Buying and bargaining</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Oral practice/Quiz</td>
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(Practise with the students the dialogues on pages 37-39 of the course handbook)

WEEK FOUR

Days of the week
1. The days of the week in Twi
2. Corresponding day names in Twi.
3. General name giving of Akans,
4. Oral practice/Quiz
   (See Unit 1, section 3, pages 43 - 46 of the Handbook)

WEEK FIVE

Pronouns.
2. Subjective pronouns.
3. Objective Pronouns.
4. Possessive Pronouns.
5. Translation practice
6. Oral practice/Quiz
   (See Unit 2, section 1, page 49 of the handbook)

WEEK SIX

Tense/Aspect
1. The three tenses
   The present --- I go
   The Simple future ---- I will go
   The Simple past ------ I went
2. Other aspects of tenses.
   (a) The Progressive or The Present Continuous Tense.
   (b) The Immediate future
   (c) The Perfect
3. Translation practice
4. Oral practice/Quiz
   (See Unit 2, section 4, page 69 of the handbook)
**WEEK SEVEN**

**Numerals / Conjunctions**

1. The twelve primary numerals.
2. The compound numerals.
3. Definite and indefinite numerals.
4. Buying things in numbers and saying age in numbers.
5. Conjunctions: (a) **Co-ordinating conjunctions**  
   (b) **Sub-ordinating conjunctions**

6. Translation/composition practice
7. Oral practice/quiz

   Numerals:  See Unit 2, section 5, page 80 of the Handbook)
   Conjunctions:  See Unit 2, section 6, page 86 of the Handbook)

**WEEK EIGHT**

**Mid-term Exams, Articles/ postpositions**

1. Mid-term Exams
2. Definite articles
3. Indefinite articles.
4. Postpositions
5. Translation/composition practice
6. Oral practice/quiz

**WEEK NINE**

Spring Break

**WEEK TEN**

**The Wh- Question forms**

1. All the six WH- question words
2. Ordinary use of the six WH- question words
3. Emphatic use of the six WH- question words
4. Non WH- question words

5. Translation/composition practice
6. Oral practice/quiz

WEEK ELEVEN

Negation

1. The Akan negative markers.
2. Assimilation of “mb” and “nd”.
3. Making simple negative sentences in Twi in all Tense/Aspect
4. Changing given affirmative sentences into negatives and vice versa.
5. Translation practice
6. Oral practice/quiz

WEEK TWELVE

Translation Practice

1. Translation from Twi to English
2. Translation from English to Twi.
3. Translation with multiple answers.
4. Translation of a dialogue
5. Translation of a passage.

(See pages 106 – 111 of the Handbook)

WEEKS THIRTEEN AND FOURTEEN

Composition Writing. (Two weeks)

1. Practise composition writing with students. They should be able to write with some precision about a topic like ---- (Me ho asâm).
2. Practise other topics.
They should be able to say or read whatever they write down with sufficient comprehension. These will improve their reading and speaking skills. Students should consider some of the following plan of work:

Name; adopted Twi name; age; where you come from and where living or staying now; about parents; about siblings; about friends; marital status; where schooling and course pursuing; likes and dislikes etc (Give classroom activity)

(See Unit 3, section 2, page 112 of the Handbook)

WEEK FIFTEEN
Review

WEEK SIXTEEN
Oral and written Examination

READING LIST

COURSE HANDBOOK


OTHERS


Accra: Ghana Universities Press

A Multidimensional approach to the teaching and learning of Akan (Twi)
Madison, Winconsin. NALRC Press,
Redden J.E.; Owusu N. and Associates (1963)  Twi Basic Course  
Foriegn Service Institute.  
Washington, D.C.  

Sarpong Peter (1974)  Ghana in retrospect (Some aspects of Ghanaian culture)  
Accra: Ghana Publishing Corporation.  

West African Examinations Council:  B.E.C.E.  (Past Examination Questions)