

NYU ACCRA

Course Title: Twi Language (Accelerated)

Course Number: SCA-UA GHAN

Course Section: G01

Instruction Mode: Blended

Time zone: GMT (00:00) Greenwich Mean Time

Fall 2020

We know that you may be taking courses at multiple locations this semester. If you are enrolled in this course 100% remotely and are not a Go Local/Study Away student for this course site, please make sure that you've completed the online academic orientation via NYU Classes so you are aware of site specific support structure, policies and procedures.

Please contact the following site academic staff if you have trouble accessing the NYU Accra Classes site:

Dr. Nicholas Okai (nno211@nyu.edu)

Ms. Sharon Agbemenya (sa158@nyu.edu)

If you are attending in person, you will be assigned a seat on the first day and are expected to use that seat for the entire semester due to NYU COVID-19 safety protocol.

Instructor Information

- Instructor name: Kofi K. SAAH, Prof.
- Instructor office address: Not applicable
- Instructor Cell phone:
- Instructor email address:

Course Information

Course number and section: SCA-UA GHAN GO1

Course Title: Twi Language (Accelerated)

Course Description:

This course is 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) Alphabet and sound system, Getting to know people, ii) being polite,

iii) Talking about one's self and family, iv) buying and bargaining, v) Talking about food, clothes and the body, etc. The grammar of the language (parts of speech, nouns, e.g., verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, particles, determiners; tense, aspect, negation, and asking questions) will be covered. Students will be expected to do a lot of oral drills.

Co-requisite or prerequisite: None

Class meeting: Monday 10:30-12 noon, GMT

Venue: Classroom 2, NYU Accra Center

Course Overview and Goals

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate survival-level skills in the use the Twi language through conversation.
- Express themselves in simple conversation and be understood.
- Understand others when they speak Twi to them.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of the culture of the Twi-speaking people and how this affects how they speak.
- Demonstrate knowledge of aspects the grammar of Twi.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

You are expected to attend class in person or remote synchronously. Your active participation in class and attendance will be reflected in this part of the course requirements. Since this is a language class, students will be expected to repeat words and phrases after the instructor, make their own sentences, read dialogues and passages in the text aloud and create their own dialogues.

Assignments

See the course schedule for the weekly assignments. **Students will write two journals in Twi on their experiences during the period of the course.**

Tests & Quizzes

There will be a mid-semester test on October 26 and a final test on December 14. These will be in the form of translating sentences from English to Twi and from Twi into English, using given words to make sentences, using a substitution table to create grammatical and meaningful Twi sentences, writing passages, dialogues or essays on given topics.

Assigned Readings

The assigned readings from the textbook are indicated for each week in the course schedule. Students will be expected to do the readings before each class.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Assignments	20%
Mid-semester exam	30%
Journal 1	10%
Journal 2	10%
Final exam	30%

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points	Percent
A	4.00	94-100
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.00	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.00	65-66
F	.00	Below 65

View Grades

Grades will be available on the NYU Classes site.

Course Schedule

You will find the Zoom link from the zoom section of NYU Classes.

Topics and Assignments OR Topics, Meeting Patterns and Assignments for blended classes. If syllabus is done as google doc, accessible links can be inserted here as well.

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due	Meeting Pattern for Blended Course (optional)
Session 1	NYU Accra Classes begin Wednesday September 1			
Session 2 Sept- 7	Introduction to the Akan Language and People; Akan Sound Patterns	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 01-04	No assignment	
Session 3 Sept-14	Greetings and responses Dialogue 1	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 05-10	Assignment #1	
Session 4 Sept-21	No class & Academic Center closed, Site Holiday			
Session 5 Sept-28	Being polite: Dialogues 2&3	Dolphyne, 2020, pp08-10	Assignment #2	
Session 6 Oct-5	Making friends Dialogues 4, 5, Tense and aspect	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 11-19	Assignment #3	
Session 7 Oct- 12	Finding out what one does; Finding out where one lives; Dialogues	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 20-26	Assignment #4	

	7&8; Counting in Twi; Forming the plural of nouns in Twi			
Session 8 Oct-19	Mid-semester review/mid-semester exam	Dolphyne 2020, pp 01-26	Journal 1 due	
Session 9 Oct-26	Buying and bargaining Dialogue 11	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 32-36	Mid-semester Exam	
Session 10 Nov-2	Food Dialogue 14&15	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 45-51	Assignment #5	
Session 11 Nov-9	The family Dialogue 17	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 53-55	Assignment #6	
Session 12 Nov- 16	Clothes Dialogue 18	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 57-61	Assignment #7	
Session 13 Nov-23	The body Dialogue 19	62-64	Assignment #8	
Session 14 Nov-30	Asking questions Dialogue 20	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 65-66	Assignment #9	
Session 15 Dec-7	Telling time Dialogue 21, Revision	Dolphyne, 2020, pp. 67-70	Assignment #10 & Journal 2 due	
Session 16 Dec-14	Final exam			

Tests and Quizzes

- Mid-semester exam: October 26
- Final exam: December 14

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

Dolphyne, Abena. 2020 *A Comprehensive Course in Twi (Asante) for Non- Twi Learners*. 2nd Edition. Legon: University of Ghana Press.

Optional Textbooks & Materials

Ofori, Seth A. 2006. *Ma Yenka Twi. (A multidimensional approach to the teaching and learning of Akan (Twi) as a foreign language)*. Madison, Wisconsin: NALRC Press)

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](https://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](https://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](https://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](https://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)
- [https://www.livelingua.com/course/fsi/Twi\(Akan\)_Basic_Course/](https://www.livelingua.com/course/fsi/Twi(Akan)_Basic_Course/)
- https://www.livelingua.com/course/peace-corps/Twi_Language_Lessons/

Course Policies

Hygiene/Physical Distancing policies

- Students will be assigned/choose a seat on the first day of class. For NYU COVID-19 Safety protocols, please use the same seat for the duration of the semester.

Attendance and Tardiness

Studying at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers or online through NYU Classes if the course is remote synchronous/blended, is expected promptly when class begins. Unexcused absences will affect students' semester participation grade. If you have scheduled a remote course immediately preceding/following an in-person class, you may want to discuss where at the Academic Center the remote course can be taken** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

SITE SPECIFIC ABSENCE REPORTING POLICY

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/or office hour discussions to address any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Suggested New Section: Classroom Etiquette/Expectations

Things to consider:

- Please be mindful of your microphone and video display during synchronous class meetings. Ambient noise and some visual images may disrupt class time for you and your peers.
- If you are not using your cell phone to follow the lesson, cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode during class time.
- Make sure to let your classmates finish speaking before you do.
- Please do not eat during class and minimize any other distracting noises (e.g. rustling of papers and leaving the classroom before the break, unless absolutely necessary)
- If deemed necessary by the study away site (ie COVID related need), synchronous class sessions may be recorded and archived for other students to view. This will be announced at the beginning of class time.
- Students should be respectful and courteous at all times to all participants in class. Consider using the chat function or “raise hand” function in order to add your voice to class discussions especially if leaving the video on presents challenges.

Final Exams

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between final exams, please bring it to the attention of the site Academic representative as soon as this is known to facilitate alternate arrangements. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

Late Assignment

- 1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
- 2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed.
- 3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.
- 4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.
- 5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.
- 6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.
- 7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

Incomplete Grade Policy

An “incomplete” is a temporary grade that indicates that the student has, for good reason, not completed all of the course work. This grade is not awarded automatically nor is it guaranteed; rather, the student must ask the instructor for a grade of “incomplete,” present documented evidence of illness, an emergency, or other compelling circumstances, and clarify the remaining course requirements with the instructor.

In order for a grade of “incomplete” to be registered on the transcript, the student must fill out a form, in collaboration with the course instructor and the academic administration at the site; it should then be submitted to the site’s academic office. The submitted form must include a deadline by which the missing work will be completed. This deadline may not be later than the end of the following semester.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." **Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.**

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU X takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the lecturer. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

Religious Observances

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

Students must notify their professor and the local Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.

Inclusion, Diversity, Belonging and Equity

NYU is committed to building a culture that respects and embraces diversity, inclusion, and equity, believing that these values – in all their facets – are, as President Andrew Hamilton has

said, "...not only important to cherish for their own sake, but because they are also vital for advancing knowledge, sparking innovation, and creating sustainable communities." At NYU SITE, we are committed to creating a learning environment that:

- fosters intellectual inquiry, research, and artistic practices that respectfully and rigorously take account of a wide range of opinions, perspectives, and experiences; and
- promotes an inclusive community in which diversity is valued and every member feels they have a rightful place, is welcome and respected, and is supported in their endeavors.

Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center **as early as possible in the semester for assistance**. Accommodations for this course are managed through the site sponsoring the class once you request it.

Instructor Bio/About Your Instructor

Kofi Korankye Saah (PhD) is a retired Associate Professor of Linguistics formerly of the Department of Linguistics, University of Ghana, Legon. He received his Bachelor's degree in English and Linguistics from the University of Ghana, Legon, and his Master's and Doctoral degrees in Linguistics from Indiana University, Bloomington and the University of Ottawa, respectively. Most of his teaching and research is focused on syntactic theory and the syntax of the Akan language, child language development, sentence processing, etc. He has been teaching Twi at NYU Accra since its inception. He draws on his considerable experience as a professor of linguistics and a researcher in the Akan (Twi-Fante) language to make his teaching interesting to his students.

Selected publications:

Saah, Kofi K. 2018. The syntax of reciprocal constructions in Akan. *Ghana Journal of Linguistics* 7.2: 52-70 (2018)

Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Tope Omoniyi, Nii Teiko Tagoe, Obadele Kambon & **Kofi Korankye Saah**. 2018. *Therapeutic Communication Competencies for Nurses and Midwives*. Tema: Digibooks Ghana Ltd.

Saah, Kofi K. 2017. The null 3rd person object pronoun and the syntax of Akan. In Obeng, Samuel G. & Christopher R. Green (eds.) *African Linguistics in the 21st Century: Essays in Honor of Paul Newman*. Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, pp 107-126.

Goodluck, Helen, **Kofi K. Saah** & Frank Tsiwah. 2015. 'In Akan, violation of island constraints cannot be reduced to sentence processing.' *Proceedings of the 2015 annual conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association conference*.

Saah, Kofi K. 2010. Relative Clauses in Akan. In Enoch O. Aboh & James Essegbey (eds.) *Topics In Kwa Syntax (Studies in Natural Language and Linguistic Theory 78)*. Dordrecht, Heidelberg, London: Springer, pp 91-107.

Yankah, Kwesi, **Kofi K. Saah** & Nana Aba Appiah Amfo (eds.). 2014. *A Legon Reader in Ghanaian Linguistics*. Barnbury, OX: Ayebia Clarke Publishing.

Saah, Kofi K. 2014. Reflexive Marking and Interpretation in Akan. In Yankah, Kwesi, **Kofi K. Saah** & Nana Aba Appiah Amfo (eds.) 2014. *A Legon Reader in Linguistics*. Barnbury: OX: Ayebia Clarke Publishing, pp.37-50.