THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Institute of Modern Languages

COURSE CONTENT – SWAHILI LEVEL 1

A

TOPIC	LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	LANGUAGE FOCUS
Introduction and Greetings	• Introducing oneself and others (e.g., name, nationality). • Greeting and saying goodbye. • Asking and answering basic questions.	• Personal pronouns. • Common greetings and responses • Basic question words (e.g., nani “Who”? nini “what”? wapi “where”?) • Singular and plural forms.
Family and Relationships	• Describing family members. • Asking about and stating relationships. • Discussing basic personal details.	• Vocabulary for family and relationships. • Possessive pronouns. • Adjective-noun agreement.
Numbers and Time	• Asking and telling time. • Talking about days and months. • Discussing simple schedules.	• Cardinal numbers (0-50). • Time expressions (e.g., asubuhi (morning), jioni) (evening). • Days of the week and months of the year.
Daily Life	• Talking about daily routines. • Asking and giving simple directions. • Expressing likes and dislikes.	• Present tense verbs. • Vocabulary for daily activities. • Introduction to verb structure (infinitive “-ku-” forms)

B

TOPIC	LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	LANGUAGE FOCUS
Shopping and Essentials	• Asking about prices and quantities. • Basic expressions for shopping. • Talking about food and drink preferences.	• Vocabulary for shopping and markets • Demonstrative pronouns (e.g., hii “this” hizi “these”, hiyo “that” hizo “those”). • Simple transactional phrases.
Out and About	• Describing locations in a city/town. • Asking for and giving directions. • Describing places and their uses.	• The verbs "kuwa “to be”" and "kuna “being”. • Basic prepositions of place (e.g., “mbele” front, “nyuma” back. • Imperative forms for instructions.
Dining out	• Ordering food and drinks. • Expressing likes and dislikes.	• The verb "kupenda" (to like/love). • Common imperatives (e.g., “Lete” bring, “Ongeza tafadhali “add me more please”). • Vocabulary for food and beverages
Celebrations and Swahili Traditions	• Discussing common Swahili festivals. • Participating in social conversations	• Expressions of time (e.g., “mwanzoni” the start of, “mwisho wa wiki” the end of the week). • Vocabulary to talk about celebrations.