

# **Johns Hopkins University**

Language Teaching Center

Beginning Hausa 379.161 Syllabus  
Fall 2006

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## ***Course Description:***

This is a first step towards teaching the Hausa language at this university, as an introductory course, students will explore the grammatical, phonological, and sociological elements of Hausa. During the semester, students will be exposed to the different facets of the cultures of West Africa – specifically Niger and Nigeria. The course will focus on vocabulary and conversational Hausa through the use of dialogue, role plays, question and answer exercises and reading assignments.

## ***Course Objectives:***

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to function in basic Hausa communication skills as well as be exposed to aspects of Hausa life and culture. The course objectives are to impart skills in Hausa grammar, culture, speaking, listening and to a lesser extent reading and writing.

## ***Class Policy:***

Successful completion of the course is dependent upon many factors such as punctual and continuous attendance, continuous and adequate preparation, and class participation. Absence in and of itself, is not an acceptable excuse for incomplete assignments, for being poorly prepared for the test, or for submitting projects or papers late.

The student is responsible for all assigned reading material. Students are expected to read and study daily. Reading assignments are to be complete when assigned. This provides a foundation for learning. Additionally, students are expected to take notes and to review them often.

Any student, who requires special accommodation for this course because of a disability, should speak with the professor during the first week of the semester.

## ***Required Materials:***

The instructor will provide class materials.

Option materials: English-Hausa dictionary.

## ***Evaluation***

Your final grade will be determined base on the following items:

- Class participation	20%
- Attendance	15%
- Quizzes	20%
- Mid Term and Final Exams	30%
- Oral Assignment/exams	15%

90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 0-59 = F

## ***Academic Ethics***

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition.

Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of students and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. See the guide on "Academic Ethics for Undergraduates" and the Ethics Board web site ( <http://ethics.jhu.edu> ) for more information.

**Course Outline:** (may be changed to accommodate class needs)

- Week 1                      Sept. 7-8  
**Introduction**  
**A bit of Hausa History**  
**Review Hausa Pronoun Chart**
- Week 2                      Sept. 11 – 15  
**Greetings**  
Greetings and useful expressions  
Times of day  
Greeting shortcuts  
Grammar: ne/ce sandwich form and –na form (Present Tense)
- Week 3                      **Introducing Oneself**  
Ethnic groups  
Where are you from?  
Grammar: the –ke form and demonstrative pronouns  
Asking questions
- Week 4                      Sept. 18 – 22  
**Counting 0-100**  
Ga and gare uses  
Grammar: past tense (-na and – ke forms)  
Na sani and other past tense verbs  
Days of the week  
The future tense using za
- Week 5                      Sept. 25 – 29  
**Introducing one’s family**  
Grammar: possessive adjectives (my, your, her, etc.)  
Talking about your age  
Uses of mai and masu
- Expressing one’s needs**  
Verbs that take an “*n*”  
Grammar: imperative and subjunctive forms  
Grammar: idiomatic form “*a*”
- Week 6                      Oct. 2 – 6  
**The Market and Money Matters**  
Grammar: possessive pronouns (mine, yours, hers, etc.)  
Weddings, Niger style
- Identifying and Describing Things**  
Food items, things/articles  
Hausa plurals, animals and birds in the market, wild things...  
Colors, adjectives, measurements, bikis and baptisms

Week 7

Oct. 9 – 13

**Identifying and Describing Things Con't**

Grammar: dative pronouns (for/to me, for/to him, etc...)

Continuous aspect

Verbal nouns

**Expressing Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction**

Grammar: review of –n verbs

Grammar: direct object pronouns (me, her, them etc...)

Subjunctive review

Week 8

Oct 17 – 20

**Naming Different part of the Body**

*Ni da kaina*= myself= me and my head

Grammar: preposition and adverbs

Grammar indefinites

**Mid term review**

Week 9

Oct. 23 – 26

**Mid Term Exam**

**Illness, Disease and Bodily Functions**

Grammar: to have

Pain

Sickness

death

Grammar: interrogative pronouns

Week 10

Oct. 30 – Nov. 3

**Describing Physical and Emotional States**

Madame, ou bien mademoiselles

Talking words

Thinking words

Grammar: the uses of *sai*

Week 11

Nov. 6 – 10

**Identifying foods and cooking them**

Cooking utensil

*Tuwo* = food = *abinci*

comparisons

**Directions and locations**

Leave taking and coming back agin

“0” for verb orientations

East/west differences

Week 12	<p>Nov. 13 – 17</p> <p><b>Travel info/getting to your destination</b></p> <p>Movement words</p> <p>Grammar: relative clauses</p> <p><b>Telling Time and Setting meetings</b></p> <p>Prayer time</p> <p>Clock time</p> <p>Times of day</p> <p>Years and seasons</p> <p>Grammar: if and when</p>
Week 13	<p>Nov. 20 – 22</p> <p><b>Times and the Seasons</b></p> <p>Greetings for the season</p> <p>The use of “a”</p> <p>Holidays</p> <p><b>Talking about jobs, trades and work</b></p> <p>Words of quality</p> <p>Thoughts on babu Hausa</p>
Week 14	<p>Nov. 27 – Dec. 1</p> <p><b>Places in the village</b></p> <p>People in the village</p> <p>Things in your house</p> <p>Getting around the village</p> <p><b>Proverbs – Karin Magana</b></p> <p>Sannu sannu bata hana zuwa and others!</p>
Week 15	<p>Dec. 4 – 8</p> <p><b>Review</b></p> <p><b>Oral Exams</b></p>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	Tues December 12