



CIEE Gaborone, Botswana

Course name: Setswana Language and Culture Practicum
Course number: AFST 1001 BOTS
Programs offering course: Arts and Sciences; Community Public Health
Language of instruction: English and Setswana
U.S. Semester Credits: 02
Contact Hours: 30
Term: Fall 2019

Course Description

The language and culture practicum is a two-credit course that is designed specifically to enable you to have an appreciation and understanding of spoken Setswana language in your everyday interaction with the host culture. Throughout the duration of the language and culture practicum, excursions as well as other activities will also be scheduled in a bid to help you not only deepen your understanding of the host culture but to also enable you to effectively function in the cross-cultural environment. This course has two elements: language and culture. Taking initiative in both the Setswana language classes and the cultural assignments will allow students to get the most benefit from the course.

Learning Objectives

- To enable you to understand Setswana as quickly as possible;
- To teach you Setswana that you can use in your everyday life;
- To make you feel comfortable using Setswana in and out of class;
- To focus on helping you get your ideas across in Setswana;
- To help you learn about Botswana culture as you learn Setswana.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

- Oral activities
- Reading and writing
- Songs and games
- Self-guided projects

Assessment and Final Grade

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| 1. Mid term: | 25% |
| 2. Final examination: | 30% |
| 3. Group Media Project: | 25% |
| 4. Participation: Cultural Activities: | 10% |
| 5. Scavenger hunt : | 10% |



Course Requirements

General

Late assignments will incur one point penalty each day that passes after the due date. Unexcused absences are not permitted. If you are going to miss a class period, inform the course instructor. Tardiness will negatively impact your participation grade.

CIEE subscribes to standard U.S. norms requiring that students exhibit the highest standards regarding academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the program. Standards of honesty and norms governing originality of work differ significantly from country to country. We expect students to adhere to both the American norms and the local norms.

Setswana Language

Guidelines:

- You will be taught in Setswana most of the time
- You will use Setswana during class
- You will do one Botswana fact per week
- You have the liberty to guess and make mistakes during class

Scavenger Hunt

Please **Choose 4 of the 5 below** to be submitted via hard copy in class on **TBD**

1. Interview five (05) Batswana respondents and explain the various circumstances surrounding their names at birth. In what way have these circumstances helped or otherwise shaped that person's identity and worldview?
2. Rites of passage are integral aspects of Setswana culture. Please identify any two of these rites of passage and briefly describe their importance in Setswana culture.
3. Each Motswana belongs to a tribe with a chief/king, a totem, regiments and their respective rituals. Interview a Motswana about the details of his/her tribe such as the ones listed above and how it affects them in modern day Botswana.
4. Interview at least five (05) Batswana respondents from different vantage points to ascertain the role of African Traditional Religion (ATR) in modern day



Christian Botswana. In Setswana they say ‘Sangoma’-traditional healer and ‘Muti’-witchcraft. Although 85% of Botswana identify as Christian, do they still hold on to aspects of ATR?

5. Collect five (05) Setswana proverbs and give the exact translation followed by its meaning.

Group Media Project

One of the missions of CIEE is to help people gain understanding of the culturally diverse world we live in. You will find that upon returning to your homes it can be challenging to communicate your experience. The main objective of this assignment is to communicate to people in America what it is like to live and study in Botswana. The project will have a **2-5 minute video component and a 1-2 page electronic document component**. Your project will effectively communicate a topic (ex. living with a host family) to a specific audience (ex. prospective students). **You will be working in the same groups that you did in the Amazing Race.**

Email your topic to gaboroneinternship@cieee.org and sentlejulesmil@yahoo.com by TBD
Due date & viewing: TBD

Here is a list of topics that have been done during prior semesters. Please use these as jumping off points to choose your own topic. We do not want you to repeat unless you feel strongly that a past video did not comprehensively address a topic.

- Village Experience
- Dorm Living/Homestay
- Trip planning
- Security
- Water
- Food
- Shopping at Rail Park

The media project will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Appropriate length of video (5%)
- Clarity. Does the video address the topic comprehensively? (40%)
- Production quality. Can we hear and see the video clearly? (15%)
- Appropriate length of electronic material (5%)
- Content of printed material. Is it informative? (25%)
- Readability. Is the electronic material created easy to read? (10%)

Attendance and Class Participation: Cultural Activities



As the purpose of this course is two-fold, for you to learn Setswana and also gain a greater appreciation for Botswana culture, there are many cultural opportunities (listed below) that we encourage you to attend over the course of the semester. Your attendance in these CIEE-structured activities comprises your grade for this course requirement.

Cross-Cultural Activities: In order for students to be able to broaden their perspectives as well as promote their cultural awareness and understanding a number of activities such as traditional dance classes will be availed throughout the duration of the course.

Excursions: In addition to the above, a number of excursions, which will incorporate the use of Setswana language, will also be a part of the language and culture practicum. Specific historical and cultural sites of interest will vary from semester to semester and will be announced at a later stage. Excursions will also enable you to have a better understanding of some of the socio-economic issues with which Botswana is currently grappling. Trips can be found in the semester schedule and are subject to last-minute change.

Village Cultural Experience: Botswana, just like any other African society, is affected by urbanization, westernization and modernization. Your stay in a village will introduce you to some spaces where you will be experiencing some traditional aspects of Botswana. These may include but are not limited to kgotla visits, cattle posts and masimo, markets, churches, etc.

Weekly Schedule

Orientation Week

Amazing Race:

a fun way to learn how to navigate the public transportation system in Gaborone

Week 1

Greetings

Build on the Survival Setswana session during orientation.

Use of instructional tools.

1.1

Learn how to greet in Setswana both formally and informally

Motivation: Sing a Setswana greetings song {dumela mma, dumela rra}

Grammar: Personal pronouns and abstract pronouns.

- 1.2 **Introductions**
Learn how to introduce themselves by their names, where they come from and their present commitment.
Readings: Read a text about greetings on Page 4 and 5 of *Learning Setswana*
Grammar: Interrogatives
Learn how to ask and answer questions

- 1.3 Practice dialogues on greetings and introductions
Readings: Page 21, 24, 25 of *Itse Puo le ngwao ya setswana*

Week 2 At the store

- 2.1 Learn how to purchase and bargain for items at the store
Activity: Put different items on the table in class and allow students to practice how to purchase and bargain.
Handout: give students a handout on verbs {*Puo le Ngwao page 41-44*}
Grammar: Present Tenses and Past Tenses {Page 41 of *Itse Puo le Ngwao*}

- 2.2 Construct simple sentences on shopping
Grammar: Future Tenses
Students will now conjugate the previous day sentences to future tense

- 2.3 Use the same sentences to conjugate them to Past Progressive Tenses

Week 3 At the doctor

- 3.1 **Motivation:** sing the “ head and shoulders” and “ mobamome” song in Setswana
Learn how to label body parts

Homework Exercise: labelling body parts on page 94 of *Puo le Ngwao*

Home work on labelling body parts due on the next lesson

Grammar: Noun classes and subject markers and to have and not to have

- 3.2 Learn how to talk about sickness using the nouns and their subject markers
e.g Tlhogo e a opa
Monwana o botlhoko
Leitlho le rurugile



Home work: to have or not to have exercise on page 34 of Learning Setswana.

Class activity: use noun classes, subject markers, to have and not to have to create simple sentences.

Grammar: continue with the noun class chart

3.3 **Test 1**

Write a test on Present, Past, Future and Past Progressive Tenses and Noun classes and their Subject Markers

Week 4 Food

4.1 **Motivation: Sing** the food songs “ba apeile nama ka molopita” and “tamati soso”

Learn food related vocabulary and begin to have dialogues regarding food. Express their likes and dislikes on certain food.

Grammar:

Negation

Students will learn how negation works and the grammar rules on how to negate.

4.2 **Food**

The language Instructor will set up tables and make a mini food store and or a restaurant and the students will practice buying or ordering the food they want to eat.

Students will create sentences on food using all time frames and negate them

Example: i want meat/ke batla nama – i do not want meat/ga ke batle nama

I ate meat/ ke jele nama- i did not eat meat/ ga ke a ja nama

I will eat meat/ke tlaa ja nama- i will not eat meat/ga ke kake ka ja nama

Grammar: Negation

4.3 **Review:**

Reviewing all the covered topics

Create sentences on tenses, noun classes, food, at the doctor, negation and also practice dialogues on greetings and introductions

Week 5 Weather

5.1 Setswana speakers **love** to talk about the weather. It is a way of breaking the



Ice when starting a conversation. Friends and families talk about the weather before they discuss what's new. Even strangers discuss the weather.

Motivation: sing a song of weather “ Go monate go tsamaya mo mosong” and point to the 4 cardinal points

Class activity: Learn about Botswana weather and learn weather vocabulary and phrases :

Examples: selemo/summer, letlhafula/autumn, mariga/winter, dikgakologo/spring

Go phefo/it is windy, go mogote/it is hot, go pula/it is rainy, ke a sitwa/i am cold

Reading: *Page 100 of Puo le Ngwao*

5.2

Weather

Learners will create dialogues talking about the weather. The facilitator will practice

With each one of them and after that they will practice with each other

Class Exercise: Filling in the blanks exercise on page 102 and 102 of *Puo le Ngwao*

5.3

Possessives

Learn personal possessives and their markers

Me/my/mine, gago/your/yours, gagwe/his/hers, rona/our/ours etc...

Week 6

Review: Learners will review course content and practice speaking dialogues

6.1

Greetings, introductions, tenses and personal pronouns, noun classes

6.2

At the store, at the doctor, Family,

6.3

Mid Term Written Test

Week 7

Mid- Semester Break

Week 8

Class resume after midterm break

Scavenger Hunt Assignments

Media project topics are due



Week 9 **Family {Immediate Family}**

9.1 **Motivation:** sing a song “nonyane tse pedi godimo ga setlhare”
Class activity: Students will learn vocabulary on immediate family..
eg: ntate/father, mme/mother, siblings/ nnake,nkgonne,kgaitsadiake
Students will now learn to talk about their families and tell each other about their families back in the U.S.A using dialogues.
Grammar: Adjectives
Reading: I want to describe: Page 66 and 67 of *Learning Setswana*

9.2 **Adjectives**
Learners will learn the different types of adjectives, also the strong and weak adjectives and their adjective markers for different noun classes. They will then create sentences and describe things and or people

9.3 **Adjectives and Family**

Finish adjectives
Learners will continue practicing their adjectives by having dialogues on Family
Class exercise: Learners will read a Setswana paragraph, mark or underline all the adjectives and further translate the passage to English. Page 67 of *Puo le Ngwao*
Grammar: Adjectives

Week 10 **Transportation**

10.1 **Motivation:**
Learners will share how public transportation works back home in America and the Facilitator will also talk about how public transportation works in Botswana. The Facilitator will also share some cultural notes around public transportation e.g. Botswana uses blue number plates for public transport, always greet the person sitting next to you in case you may need help of some sort.

Class activity: Learn vocabulary and phrases on transportation
Examples: base/bus, terena/train, base e emelela nako mang?/what time does the bus leave?

Grammar: Prepositions

10.2 **Transportation Skit**

Class Activity: Learners will play a skit on a bus rank situation

Megan: dumela mma/hello maam

Lita: dumela mma/hello maam

Megan: ke kopa thuso/i need some help

Lita: ke ka go thusa jang?/ how can i help u?

Megan: ke batla go ya kwa UB,ke palama route mang?/i want to go to UB, which route do i take?

Lita: O palama route 4 ya Tlokweng/you take Tlokweng route 4

Megan: ke a leboga mma/thank you maam

Lita: ke a leboga /thank you

Grammar: Prepositions

10.3 **Prepositions**

Learn the prepositions: kwa tlase ga../ Underneath., kwa godimo ga../on top of..

The facilitator will place different objects in different places and the learners will say where the objects are.

Learners will now construct sentences using different prepositions

Exercise: Fill in the Preposition Picture Crossword on page 79 of *Puo le Ngwao*

Week 11 **Review**

Learners will practice dialogues on all covered topics

Week 12 **Media projects due date and viewing Setswana Oral Final Exam (TBD in class)**

Readings

Dow, Unity, and Max Essex. *Saturday is for Funerals*. Harvard University Press, 2011.

- Unity Dow is considered to be one of Botswana's leading human rights activists and legal professionals. She has authored and co-authored a string of non-fiction books with the most critically acclaimed being *Saturday is for Funerals* which is a



critical observation of the HIV epidemic before and after the introduction of anti-retroviral drugs. It is coauthored by Max Essex, a renowned HIV researcher.

Dutfield, Michael. *Marriage of Inconvenience: The Persecution of Seretse & Ruth Khama*. Unwin Hyman: 1990.

- This is the story of Seretse (Botswana's first President and Chief of a major tribe) and Ruth (white English student) Khama marriage and how it rocked the political landscape of southern Africa.

First Steps in Spoken Setswana. Gaborone: Pula Press, 1978.

Head, Bessie. *When Rain Clouds Gather*. Simon & Shuster Adult Publishing Group, 1969.

- Bessie Head is considered the most influential writer in Botswana's history, Bessie, a Serowe native, has penned several popular small fiction and non-fiction books on Botswana that critically examines Botswana culture while entertaining. *When Rain Clouds Gather* is required reading in Botswana's junior high schools.

Kort, Tina. *Learning Setswana*. Gaborone: Flying Mission.

Masire, Sir Quett Ketumile Joni. *Masire: Memories of an African Democrat*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

- World renowned diplomat and Botswana's first Vice President and second President wrote an autobiography titled *Masire: Memoires of an African Democrat*. From an American prospective, this would be akin to Thomas Jefferson's memoires. This is a must read for African history buffs or political scientists.

Otlogetswe, Thapelo. *English-Setswana Dictionary*. Gaborone: Pentagon Publishers.

Rantao, Paul Mmolotsi. *Setswana Culture and Tradition*. Gaborone: Pentagon Publishers, 2006.

- Presents the old and the new Tswana cultural and traditional practices and explains where change is occurring and where it is resisted.

Smith, Alexander McCall. *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. 1998

- This Scottish fiction writer wrote 13 novels known as the *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* (the name of the first book). These popular novels turned HBO mini-series is a fun read but more importantly has had the largest impact on how the world views Botswana.

There are plenty of books in the office so come and check them out!