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Online courses for autonomous learning in a Swahili language academic course based on the study of Swahili literary texts

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Abstract

On line corse for autonomous learning in a Swahili language academic course based on the study of Swahili literary texts (intermediateadvanced level).

UNIOR offers a Swahili course of literature that requires the study of contemporary prose texts. Students are required to read and translate pieces extracted from works of Kenyan and Tanzanian authors, activity which demands a constant control by the teacher on the translation carried out by the student. Such a control can be done either during traditional contact lessons or trhough the use of MOODLE platform for distance learning, provided by the CILAUNIOR.

The idea started within a European project for a common title in African language studies (B.A: level). The Italian version is by M. Toscano, with the collaboration of G. Acquaviva and F. Aiello. The responsible person for the French version is O. Issa, teacher of Swahili literature at INALCO (FR).

The project of an online Swahili literature course was created in order to give the opportunity to follow the course also to students who do not have the possibility to attend frontal lessons.

The course, currently of 4 credits, is organized in an introductory section containing a presentation of the authors and of works dealt with in the course and various didactic units dedicated to pieces selected from teaching materials prepared by prof. E. Bertoncini. Each unit is articulated in several parts: introduction to the selected piece, web page with Swahili text accompanied by the Italian and French version, equipped with audio files and comments to the text.

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Bibliographical indications for further reading are included in each teaching unit, together with a glossary and control exercises. The course has been validated by some students who, following an observation grid, have found some errors and proposed some modifications.

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