

SPRING 2014 LING199: Language, culture and identity in East

Africa and the Swahili-speaking world

Of course you know a few words of Swahili— Sub-Saharan Africa's most well-known and widely spoken language—even if you may not be aware of it (at least if you've ever watched *The Lion King* or celebrated Kwanzaa). But most likely you know little or nothing about who speaks it. As the language of the Swahili traders, whose cities were spread all along the Indian Ocean coast, with trading settlements in the center of Africa (what is now the DRC), and as the national language of several modern East African nations, Swahili is spoken across as East Africa by a very

diverse group of people.

Learn about the language, history, culture and society of the Swahili people and East Africans today. The course will cover a wide range of topics, including the Swahili language, linguistic and ethnic diversity in East Africa, culture, history, religion, politics, literature, and arts.

Offered in Spring 2014 as Ling 199 (CRN 29534)
Schedule: MW 2-3.20pm in 1134 FLB
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