The Critical Languages Program enables students to study important foreign languages relevant to their academic interests but not taught in regular courses at Williams. The program can field a limited number of courses per year*, and it has offered one-year of elementary Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, and Swahili thus far. Students work independently with standard language textbooks and audio materials for roughly ten hours per week and attend twice weekly group review sessions with tutors who are native speakers. Language faculty from other institutions provide the course syllabus, conduct the exams, and determine the final grades. An organizational meeting for enrolled students is held the first week of each semester.

Interested students must present an application and have it approved before registering for a course. Applications are available during the first two weeks of April and can be obtained from the Coordinator at the Center for Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Hollander 230 or online at cflc.williams.edu/critical-languages.

Note that like other elementary language courses, the Critical Languages courses are hyphenated, meaning no credit is given for the first semester until the second semester is successfully completed. Students must normally begin a course in the fall semester. It cannot be taken Pass/Fail. An organizational meeting will be held the first week of each semester.

A consecutive year of intermediate language study will be considered only upon petition of those students completing a full year of elementary study with the Critical Languages Program and as long as a minimum of two students are enrolled to continue their language study.

All courses adhere to the guidelines of the National Association of Self-Instructional Language Programs (NASILP).

*A Critical Languages course will be scheduled only if and when at least two students are accepted for study and provided a native tutor and outside examiner have been contracted.

CRSW 101  (F)  Elementary Swahili

Introduction to the alphabet and language structure with emphasis on communicative skills. Students will receive a foundation in the language being able to hold simple conversations, use a range of vocabulary related to daily activities and transactions, and gain familiarity with basic, frequently used grammatical structures and the writing system of the language.

Class Format:  Twice-weekly review sessions
Requirements/Evaluation:  Written and oral midterm and final exams.
Prerequisites:  Sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Critical Language Program in early April.
Enrollment Limit:  8
Enrollment Preferences:  Preference given to application submissions received during the information-application period in April.
Expected Class Size:  8
Grading:  no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Unit Notes:  minimum of two students in order to schedule the course
Distributions: (D1)
Not offered current academic year

CRSW 102  (S)  Elementary Swahili

Continuation in developing communicative skills, vocabulary building, and furthering familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures and writing.

Class Format: twice-weekly review session
Requirements/Evaluation:  Written and oral midterm and final exams.
Prerequisites:  CRSW 101
Enrollment Limit:  8
Enrollment Preferences: Students who have completed CRSW 101.

Expected Class Size: 2-8

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: Minimum of two students in order to schedule the course.

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

Winter Study

CRSW 99 (W) Independent Study: Swahili

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: pass/fail only

Not offered current academic year