



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**

*Where leaders learn*

School of Languages: African Language Studies  
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# **ISIXHOSA FOR LAW ELECTIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

## **2015**

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# ISIXHOSA FOR LAW

## COURSE OUTLINE

### 1. General Overview

IsiXhosa for Law is a semester course offered as a credit bearing elective in the fourth and fifth year of the Law degree where students are required to interact with clients at the Rhodes Law Clinic and with speakers of isiXhosa in Grahamstown. The skills acquired in the course will also equip students to cope in other environments where isiXhosa is spoken. The purpose of the course, most importantly is:

- To give law students at the University language skills, specific to their vocation, to be able to cope during legal-professional-client interviews in contexts where isiXhosa has to be spoken;
- To provide students with knowledge and skills which will be necessary for them to understand and interpret cultural issues embedded in isiXhosa communication, especially those specific to the law context; and
- To provide students with isiXhosa foundation they can build on when they leave the university.

The course will generally focus on communication during interviews where students have to elicit information from “clients” around their personal details, social history, what assistance is required from them, and how; and details of different cases pertaining to child maintenance, credit agreements, and theft.

### 2. Assumptions of prior learning

The course is a beginner course. Other than basic literacy skills in English, there is no prior knowledge expected from students. However, the course, assuming that the students taking the course will be senior students in the Law Faculty, will be challenging in such a way that they see its applicability in their legal training. Therefore, the course is intended to add value to the general learning experience of a senior Law student.

### 3. Outcomes

#### 3.1 Critical Outcomes

It is intended that at the end of the course the students will be

- Equipped with **basic linguistic competency** to be able to cope in situations where they have to conduct interviews with clients speaking isiXhosa,
- Equipped with appropriate **cultural knowledge** so that they are able to understand and respond appropriately in situations where isiXhosa is spoken,
- Made familiar to **common cultural misunderstandings that emanate from inter- and cross cultural communication**, especially in relation to various legal contexts.

### 3.2 Specific Outcomes

Students who attend lectures as required can demonstrate the following knowledge and skills in isiXhosa, and in the context of an interview with a client:

- the ability to greet and enquire after someone's well-being, and to respond to the above;
- the ability to introduce oneself (by name and your profession, i.e. that you are Law student at Rhodes), and the ability to ask the client's name during consultation;
- the ability to obtain personal particulars of a client, especially those pertaining to work and residential address (including contact numbers), DOB, marital status, occupation, etc. and closing the interview (i.e. thanking client, asking if they have any questions, and bidding them farewell);
- the ability to ask questions to identify why the client came (i.e. identifying the problem) and/or how s/he wants the Rhodes Law Clinic (RLC) to assist them. Ability to ask questions to elicit the information required;
- the ability to ask questions related to the "Means test" (marital status, income, dependents, etc), and informing the client about the fee the RLC charges, and other possible charges;
- the ability to conduct an interview with a client where you elicit information, chronologically, around the following areas of interaction:
  - child maintenance;
  - credit agreements (i.e. default on...); and
  - theft
- the ability to inform client about the course of action you would take and how long it would take before they hear from you; and informing client about date for next appointment

### 4. Teaching material/sources

The students will be provided with a course manual from which the lectures and tutorials will be drawn.

### 5. Teaching Method

The teaching is communicative and interactive, using situations or dialogues that facilitate a particular outcome for that specific lecture. Conversation/ communication contexts used in teaching simulate real-life situations where students would use the language.

Grammar teaching is very minimal and will only be taught in situations where it

facilitates the communicative competence in language learning.

During lectures the focus will be on all four language learning skills (i.e. speaking and listening, and reading and writing but to a lesser extent).

Tutorials will be used mainly to develop students' speaking and listening abilities.

## 6. Assessment

Students will be assessed to evaluate whether they have accomplished the specific outcomes as given in the outline. The focus of the course is on developing speaking competence and therefore, students will therefore be assessed on their speaking competence primarily, and on their understanding of cultural issues that underpin the language in legal contexts. The assessments, both formative and summative, will be oral and practical in nature. Students will be assessed in simulated contexts where they will be required to use the language learnt. They will also be required to write reflection essays on their learning experience where they will be required to compare this to their practical experience at the RLC.

The weighting of the course will be as follows:

Oral Assessment 1	20%
Reflection essay	10%
Oral Assessment 2	20%
Exercises	10%
Final assessment	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Assessment dates are as follows:

Reflection essay	10 March 2015
Oral Assessment 1	24 March 2015
Assignment	20 April 2015
Oral Assessment 2	05 May 2015
Exercises & class participation	weekly
Final assessment	26 May 2015

You will receive the assessment information before the end of February 2015

## 7. Course duration

The course is a semester course, with three contact sessions per week. The contact sessions will be two lectures and at least one tutorial per week. A 13-week semester (2x weekly contact lectures and a tutorial, and at least 14 hours of independent learning) presents students with acceptable hours to achieve the first two notches of competence – i.e. beyond intermediate but below advanced level.

## 8. Lecture venue and times

VENUE: (G), Law Faculty  
TIMES: Mondays 10h30 -11h15  
          Tuesdays 10h30 -11h15

## 9. Contact details

The course is convened by Bulelwa Nosilela and taught by Bulelwa together with Msindisi Sam.

Bulelwa's contact details are as follows:

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