Field Methods, Ethics, and Communications
ANTH 3700 (3 credits, 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Rwanda Presidential Scholars Consortium Program

Course Description
This course combines intensive study of Kinyarwanda with field methods and research ethics to provide the student with basic linguistic and methodological tools needed for entrée and immersion into Rwandan culture and preparation for the development internship. Kinyarwanda language training is organized and conducted by a language coordinator and instructor experienced in teaching Kinyarwanda to non-native speakers. The sessions on field methods and ethics focus on how to ethically conduct field research, including the methods involved in the development internship, using the tools of participant observation, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. While the course skills are applicable to field research more generally, and in Rwanda, specifically, the ultimate objective is to prepare students for the development internship and to provide the necessary tools and training to be effective in working with NGOs and local development associations. The course consists of classroom instruction, guided reflection, experiential sessions, field visits, education excursions, and weekly sessions to debrief and process assigned readings and site visits. Individual meetings are also scheduled to help students select the area of their internship and accompany them through the process of establishing contact with NGOs and Associations. Language study is reinforced through homestay and field visits are used to highlight the role of the field researcher in a post-conflict environment.

Methodology
The course uses field visits to introduce students to select NGOs and local associations working in the areas of community development and the environment. The field visits are also used to help students establish contact and develop their own local network in preparation for their internship. Presentations by community leaders will help students develop an understanding of the inner workings of local associations and institutions. Experiential sessions on shopping, eating out, Rwandan cooking and music are also used to enhance student language learning and immersion into social life in Rwanda.

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

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Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should:

- Demonstrate basic understanding of Kinyarwanda and day-to-day usage in typical contexts
- Select, utilize, and appraise research methodologies and field-study techniques appropriate for research on issues related to development and ecology
- Illustrate the capacity to function effectively and independently in Rwanda
- Evaluate ethical considerations and model appropriate responses to ethical challenges in conducting research and working with NGOs in accordance with norms of research ethics
- Produce a proposal outlining objectives and learning outcomes for their internship experience

Course Requirements

Readings
You are responsible for all the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The readings will help you place the classes in their context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class. They are not necessarily tailor-made for each and every class.

General Required Readings


Recommended Readings

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Online Sources
http://www.freelang.net/online/kinyarwanda.php

Please note: course contents, lecturers and readings may be modified as needed. Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, students will be promptly notified.

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Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Field Methods, Ethics, and Communications assignments
Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation and presentation of evidence.

Kinyarwanda Assignments
Instructors’ assessment of class work, homework, and participation: 30%
Program Coordinator’s evaluation of participation and use of Kinyarwanda beyond the classroom: 10%

Field Methods Assignments
Field Methods & Ethics assignments (2 @ 15% each): 30%
Internship proposal: 20%
Participation: 10%

Grading Scale: The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below 64</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Criteria
An “A” grade for an assignment entails superior (not just “very good”) performance in terms of structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency, and the provision of factual, numerical and/or historical evidence. In terms of Class Participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Academic Course lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the students’ participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Student Expectations

Class Participation
Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Academic Course lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

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Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to you at Orientation.

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