

Kenya

Health and Community Development

Explore the intersections of economics, health, and community development in Kenya and see the impact local health projects have on human development.

Coursework

Health and Community Development Seminar

AFRS 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students examine the social, political, economic, and cultural underpinnings of community development and health in Kenya. Lecturers are drawn from the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and UN agencies.

Seminar topics typically include:

Kenyan Cultures and Society

History of Kenya; ethnicity, urbanization, and changing values; politics and current affairs; education and socialization; belief systems; introduction to Maasai and other Kenyan communities; current events; Swahili society, culture, and development.

Community Development

Development history and paradigms: multinational and international donors; globalization and the Kenyan economy; formal and informal economies; international priorities versus local realities; rural and other development efforts.

Health and Health Care

Traditional healing; urban and rural health care practices; demographics, infrastructure, and access to health care; public health education; reproductive health and women's health care needs; food and nutrition; the sociology of HIV/AIDS in Kenya; community health care projects.

Field Visits and Educational Excursions

The seminar generally includes short field visits within Nairobi including to UN agencies, community health clinics, international and local NGOs, community-based organizations, and government agencies, with related excursions to Mombasa and elsewhere in Kenya. Students also visit Tanzania or Uganda on a longer educational excursion to gain comparative perspectives on development, health, and social issues in East Africa.

Intensive Language Study: Swahili

SWAH 1000–2000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Emphasis is on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Students with no previous knowledge of Swahili are placed in intensive novice classes with opportunities for advancement with further language practice in homestays and field visits. Daily classes during the first two weeks of the urban homestay are followed by the rural Swahili coastal community stay, which provides opportunities for additional Swahili language practice.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; field study methods; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a field journal; participatory evaluation and appraisal techniques.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in an approved location appropriate to the project within Kenya. Sample topic areas: rural women's cooperatives; Nairobi's informal economy; oral history of the Maasai; grassroots development programs; education in Nairobi; primary health care options in Nairobi; prenatal health care; family planning in rural Kenya; HIV/AIDS peer education; girls' education in Nairobi; nutrition and health programming in Kisumu.



Credits 16

Program Base Nairobi

Language Study Swahili

Homestay Nairobi, 6 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay Swahili coastal village, 10 days

Other Accommodations Small guest houses or tented camps

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites None

“SIT Kenya was the best experience I have had during college. I have never experienced the classroom ‘come to life’ like it did for me when I studied abroad in Kenya.”

DEONDRA JACOBS, Albion College