

Kenyan Course

2008 Application Materials

Thank you for your interest in the Kenya Course!

The course represents the instructors' excitement at sharing their visions of Africa with Stanford students. Combining their expertise and extensive experience in East Africa, the course is intended to provide an introduction and orientation to the progress, promise, prospects, and problems confronting Kenya in the twenty-first century. We feel that Stanford students are well suited to use this orientation to help prepare themselves for careers that will impact the burdens of poverty and disease in the developing world

The course is tailored for those who are experiencing Africa for the first time as well as those who are familiar with East Africa but wish to delve into these issues at the next level.

The course instructors: Drs. Rasori, Mugambi, and Siegel span a range of disciplines and have many decades of experience working in the region, working with travelers, and working with American students.

By structuring the trip as a course, we will be able to combine the advantages of experiential learning with structured curricular concepts. Although we will be closely interfacing with a service organization, Village Hopecore International (VHI), we are aware of the limited ability to do meaningful service in a short-term fashion. While many service programs overlook tourism, we also recognize the importance of incorporating a significant safari experience. The Kenyan game parks afford a spectacular wildlife experience and illustrate many important lessons in terms of ecology, wildlife management, land use, sustainable ecotourism, etc.

We are particular excited by our ability to interface with Village Hopecore. This important connection will afford us the opportunity to view a successful microfinance program, analyze the output of this integrated program attending a variety of community needs, experience life in Kenya by living with home stay families, and interact with locals from the Chogoria community.

The details of the program are outlined in a series of separate handouts which will answer many of the specific questions you may have.

To ensure the quality of our program, the size is strictly limited. Only those applicants who we believe will benefit from the experience and contribute to the group experience will be accepted. We welcome applicants from all majors; decisions will not be made based on race, religion, nationality, gender, or financial status. Do not be discouraged if you have little prior international travel experience.

Your application will be read by the program staff, and qualified applicants will be invited for interview.

For many people, (and certainly your instructors), Africa has an allure that brings people back time and again – despite the inconvenience and expense of traveling there. We hope you will join us on this exciting adventure and we welcome your application to our innovative program.

Sincerely,

Robert Siegel, MD, PhD
Phil Rasori, MD
(Kajira Mugambi JD)