

NRES 479- International Environmental Studies Seminar- Kenya  
Spring 2023 (Mondays 4-5:50pm in TNR 361)

**Instructors:**

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Office hours (TNR 363): M 3-4pm, TH 11-12, and by appointment

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This course will expose students to the culture, history, language, and environmental issues of Kenya. Additionally, this course will provide logistical information to prepare students for travel abroad.

**Objectives:** At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a familiarity with both the historic and contemporary cultures within Kenya.
2. Demonstrate a familiarity with the environmental issues and related policies in Kenya.
3. Demonstrate a familiarity with Kenyan geography, including locations being visited.
4. Understand their role as ambassadors of the U.S., the State of Wisconsin, UW-Stevens Point, and the College of Natural Resources.

**Recommended readings:** There is no assigned text for this class; we will provide recommended readings to give you a background and context before you travel to Kenya. Readings are scanned and available in Canvas. Limited hard copies are available, let Dr. Petrillo know if you are interested in borrowing one.

1. Hoffman, Carl. 2010. *The Lunatic Express*. Broadway Paperbacks, New York.
2. Kapuscinski, Ryszard. 2001. *The Shadow of the Sun*. Vintage International, New York.
3. Kenyatta, Jomo. 1965. *Facing Mt. Kenya*. Vintage books, New York.
4. Meredith, Martin. 2006. *The State of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independence*. Free Press, London.

Other recommended readings:

1. Achebe, Chinua. 1958. *Things Fall Apart*. Anchor books, New York.
2. Achebe, Chinua. 1966. *Chike and the River*. Anchor books, New York.
3. Eggers, David. 2006. *What is the What*. Vintage Books, New York.
4. Kingsolver, Barbara. 1998. *The Poisonwood Bible*. HarperPerennial, New York.

**Grading:** Grades will be based upon the following:

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Attendance                    | 20% |
| 2. Participation/professionalism | 40% |
| 3. Current issues assignment     | 40% |

Scale: >90%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
<60%	F

Failure of this course will prevent you from being able to participate in the Kenya experience.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory for all lecture periods. Zoom links will be provided for live attendance. Advanced notice of an absence is required.

**Language:** Each student will be responsible for learning simple words and phrases in Swahili, one of the official languages on Kenya (in addition to English). On one of our course meetings, you will have the opportunity to learn and practice Swahili with a couple of friends who know the language well. Here are some online resources that are useful:

<http://www.101languages.net/swahili/swahili-word-list/>

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/swahili.php> (click on each word for audio pronunciation)

<http://www.glcom.com/hassan/index.html>

<http://goafrica.about.com/od/peopleandculture/a/swahili.htm>

***Current issues assignment:*** For this assignment, you will research two current, major and unrelated 'issues' in Kenya; political, environmental, cultural, financial, etc. This is an individual assignment.

You will present these issues to the class during class at the end of April, exact date TBD.

Presentations can be in the form of a powerpoint presentation (not too many slides) but powerpoint or other computer software is not necessary. Presentations should be no more than 5 minutes, and we will have a few minutes following for questions/discussion.

\*\*\*I don't want anyone in the class covering the same exact issue/topic, so you must sign up for a topic with me ASAP to avoid repeats. You can send me an email, visit me during office hours, or talk to me before/after class to see if your topics have been chosen by someone else. I will post topics in Canvas so everyone is able to see which topics have been chosen. Please do not spend a lot of time researching your issue before you have confirmation from me that no one else is covering it.\*\*\*

TOPICS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, APRIL 10 AT 6PM.

You will also need to write a brief description (summary) of each issue (1 paragraph for each issue is fine), as well as provide links to specific resources that you used (use at least 3 sources for each issue). Try to be as broad as possible. For example, think of some major environmental issues facing the US today that you are interested in, then translate that to what you might explore in Kenya. You might talk about climate change, policies related to renewable energy, agriculture, etc. You will have 2 paragraphs total (one for each issue) that should be uploaded to Canvas before 4pm (class time) on the presentation day. Half of your grade for this assignment is your presentation, and half is your summary.

***Course schedule:*** We will meet each Monday at 4pm, until the end of the semester. We will not meet during the final exam period, and there is no exam for this course. I do not have an exact schedule because I am still planning for guests to come to the class. Once I have all of the dates set I will post a schedule in Canvas.