

## SNU in Kenya

African Studies I: African Landscapes and Human Evolution Art, and Culture  
African Studies II: Art, Culture and Development in Africa

Instructors:

David K. Wright  
[msafiri@snu.ac.kr](mailto:msafiri@snu.ac.kr)  
010-9041-3070

Class to be hosted in Kenya with four days  
of instruction at SNU Gwanak campus

Kristina Dziedzic Wright  
[kdzwright@snu.ac.kr](mailto:kdzwright@snu.ac.kr)  
010-9280-2490

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### *Overview*

SNU in Kenya will utilize an innovative experiential learning curriculum to train students as global leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students will receive six (6) hours of credit for two (2) courses that will utilize interdisciplinary instruction, preparing them to understand issues salient in an increasingly globalized world. Kenya provides a unique context for studying globalization because it is the cradle of human origins, has enormous cultural and natural resources, and is one of the most rapidly developing economies in the world.

The program will cover three primary topics (called modules):

- (1) African Landscapes and Human Evolution
- (2) Development Studies of Africa
- (3) Culture and Visual Arts of East Africa

### *Class requirements*

Each student is expected to enroll in both courses listed in the SNU catalogue, arrange for mandatory vaccinations, purchase your airline ticket through the approved travel agent, and read the assigned course material. You will prepare a final presentation at the end of the course that you will present to the professors and your other classmates on July 20, 2012.

### *Class schedule*

The class will begin in Seoul with four days of training and preparation prior to departure to Kenya.

- May 26, 2012: Orientation and discussion about the summer program. You will receive information about needed vaccinations, appropriate clothing and conduct, rules and regulations of the summer program, and we will have a slide show of accommodations and field trips. (*Hosted at the Office of International Affairs*)
- June 13, 2012: Introduction to African landscapes and human evolution (lecture by Dr. David K. Wright). We will have a slideshow and introductory lecture. You

will receive a reading packet and assignment that will be due upon arrival in Kenya. (*Hosted at the Office of International Affairs*)

- June 14, 2012: Introduction to Development Studies in Africa (lecture by Moon Hong, ODA Watch). Students will receive a reading packet and assignment that will be due upon arrival in Kenya. (*Hosted at the Office of International Affairs*)
- June 15, 2012: Introduction to Art and Culture of Africa (lecture by Kristina Dziedzic Wright). We will have a slideshow and introductory lecture. You will receive a reading packet and assignment that will be due upon arrival in Kenya. (*Hosted at the Office of International Affairs*)

The class will reconvene in Nairobi, Kenya on June 25, 2012. Air transport and transport from the airport in Nairobi will be organized for you. We will be staying at the Karen Holiday Homes (<http://www.karenholidayhomes.com/preview.swf>), which has an on site conference room, double rooms, three meals per day, satellite television, broadband internet connection, exercise room, swimming pool, sauna, and full bar (you must pay your own drink tab and you will be limited to two alcoholic beverages per day).

In **Module 1**, we will cover topics pertaining to African landscapes and human origins. The class will take field trips to the Nairobi National Museum to look at fossil hominids and get a rare opportunity to visit the archaeology collections with SNU professor and museum affiliate, Dr. David K. Wright. We will also visit the Middle Stone Age site of Olorgesailie in the southern Kenya Rift Valley. We will conclude the module with an overnight trip to the prehistoric sites of Kariandusi and Hyrax Hill with game drives and lectures in Lake Nakuru National Park where we will discuss the context of human biological and cultural evolution.

### Schedule

- June 25: Recover from jet lag and get acclimated
  - Breakfast (8:00 – 9:30 a.m.)
  - Introduction to program and getting acquainted (outside on lawns if weather permits, or inside conference room if necessary, 10 – 11:30 a.m.)
  - Lunch (12:00 – 1:30 pm)
  - Optional walk to botanical gardens nearby
  - Dinner (~6:30 p.m.)
- June 26: Introduction (hosted in the Karen Holiday Homes conference room)
  - Introductory lecture on African landscapes (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)
  - Lunch (12:00 – 1:30 pm)
  - Introductory lecture on human evolution in Africa (1:30 – 4:00 pm)
- June 27: Visit the Nairobi National Museum (9:00 am – 5:00 pm)
  - <http://www.museums.or.ke/content/blogcategory/11/17/>
  - You will receive a guest lecture by Dr. Purity Kiura and visit the archaeology collections in the morning session.
  - Lunch (12:00 – 1:00 in the museum cafeteria)
- June 28: Visit Olorgesailie Prehistoric Museum (9:00 am – 5:00 pm)
  - <http://humanorigins.si.edu/research/east-african-research/olorgesailie>
  - <http://www.museums.or.ke/content/blogcategory/34/60/>
  - Box lunch will be provided (12:00 – 1:00 pm)
- June 29 – 30: Overnight trip to Lake Nakuru National Park (7:00 am departure)

- Stop at Kariandusi Museum
  - <http://www.museums.or.ke/content/blogcategory/21/27/>
  - ~9:00 – 10:00 am
- Evening lecture following game drives and dinner on the premises of the game lodge
  - <http://www.sarovahotels.com/lionhill/>
  - 8:00 – 9:00 pm
- Morning game drive (departure 6:00 am)
- Stop at Hyrax Hill Museum
  - <http://www.museums.or.ke/content/blogcategory/32/22/>
  - On site guest lecture by M. D. Kyule, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Nairobi
  - 12:00 – 1:30 pm with box lunch provided

**Module 2** will cover topics related to economic development in the African context. We will look at the paradox of African development in the context of the unequal access to the enormous wealth of the continent. The remainder of the class will be divided into four sectors of development: formal and informal economies, agriculture, and wildlife management. Guest lectures will be held in the field offices of non-government organizations (NGOs) such as Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and while visiting farms and development projects.

### Schedule

- July 2: Hosted in the Karen Holiday Homes conference room.
  - Introductory lecture on African paths to development (9 am – 12 pm)
  - Lunch 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
  - Workshop in the afternoon session
- July 3: Agricultural sector
  - Visit to Kiambethu Tea Farm in Limuru
  - Box lunch will be provided
- July 4: Self-help economies
  - Visit to Kazuri Ceramics Workshop
  - Lunch and brief tour at Utamaduni Craft Centre
  - Tour of Paterson Estate and lecture about beekeeping
- July 5: Wildlife conservation
  - Visit Kenya Wildlife Service Headquarters (9:00 am – 12:00 pm). Guest lecture by Robert Muasya, Chief of Parks Management  
[http://www.kws.org/parks/community\\_wildlife\\_program/index.html](http://www.kws.org/parks/community_wildlife_program/index.html)
  - Lunch will be provided at KWS headquarters
  - Visit African Fund for Endangered Wildlife Giraffe Centre
- July 6: Wildlife conservation (continued) + informal economies
  - Visit the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage
  - Lunch at Karen Holiday Homes
  - Visit *jua kali* businesses along Ngong Road

**Module 3** will examine the visual arts in East Africa within the context of social developments of the last several thousand years. We will begin the class by discussing human artistic expression and cultural evolution since the Stone Ages. A field trip to Mfangano Island will provide a deep historical perspective on the creation of art. The class will then visit the Nairobi National Archives to examine colonial and post-colonial art movements across Africa. We will explore how social movements affect art and how art can empower social movements. This exploration will continue with field trips to a few of the many vibrant arts organizations and artists collectives in the Nairobi area, including Kuona Trust, Goethe Institut, and the contemporary art galleries at the Nairobi National Museum. We will also visit the “Maasai Market” where you can buy gifts for your friends and family.

### Schedule

- July 8, 9 and 10: Trip to Mfangano Island rock art sites (departure at 7:00 am)
  - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5502/>
  - Lectures will be hosted on site at museums and rock art sites by the professors and staff from the National Museums of Kenya and the Trust for African Rock Art.
- July 11: East African historic and contemporary art
  - Visit the National Archives Murumbi Collections (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)  
[http://www.africanews.com/site/list\\_messages/12003](http://www.africanews.com/site/list_messages/12003)
  - Lunch at a restaurant (12:30 – 1:30 pm)
  - Visit the Nairobi Gallery (1:30 – 4:00 pm) with guest lecture by Lydia Gatundu Galavu (Curator of Contemporary Art, Nairobi National Museum)
- July 12: Tourist art and the creation of culture
  - Visit the “Maasai Market” (10:00 am – 12:30 pm). You can buy curios as gifts for yourself, family or friends. NOTE: The professors will not help you negotiate for good prices on curios.
  - Lunch at a restaurant (12:30 – 1:30 pm)
- July 13: Artist collectives and promoting contemporary art
  - Visit to Kuona Trust (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)  
<http://www.kuonatrust.org/>
    - Guest lectures and artists demonstration by Kuona artists
    - Box lunch will be provided
- July 16: Formal art venues and the international art market
  - Goethe Institut (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)  
Exhibit: *The Chronic Library* curated by Kwani Trust  
<http://www.goethe.de/ins/ke/nai/kue/en9251975v.htm>
  - Lunch at a restaurant (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)
  - Alliance Française (2:00 – 4:00 pm)  
<http://www.afkenya.or.ke>
- July 17: Artist training and education
  - Visit to Kenyatta University for hands-on workshop with Professor Edward Mwaura Ndekerere and group discussion with Kenyatta University art students (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
  - Box lunch will be provided

Week 4 will conclude with a day safari in Nairobi National Park on July 18. On July 19, you will turn in your field notebooks, and have time to complete your final oral presentations. On July 20, everyone will give a 10-minute oral presentation discussing **two** of the themes of the summer curriculum. After presentations, we will celebrate the end of the class with a dinner out at a restaurant.

Potential presentation topics can include:

- In what ways did human biological evolution affect human cultural evolution and development in East Africa?
- How are modern African art movements rooted in a deep historical past?
- In what ways have economic development programs influenced the production of art and culture in East Africa?
- How have African landscapes affected the nature of economic development in the region? What makes East Africa unique compared to Asian trajectories of development?
- In what ways have the unique aspects of East African geology and vegetation impacted the media that people use to produce art?

### *Grading*

- Assignment from Module 1 (due June 25): 10%
- Assignment from Module 2 (due July 2): 10%
- Assignment from Module 3 (due July 8): 10%
- Field notebook: (ongoing—final entries due July 19) 40%
- Final oral presentation (due July 20): 10%
- Participation in activities and discussions (ongoing): 20%