

Tanzania

Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology

Explore the delicate balance between ecological concerns and socioeconomic objectives in the vast wilderness expanses of northern Tanzania.

Coursework

Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology Seminar

ENVI 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students examine the relationships among socioeconomic goals, ecological parameters, and cultural transitions from multiscale/actor perspectives in various Tanzanian landscapes. Lecturers are drawn from institutions including Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, and various nongovernmental organizations.

Seminar topics typically include:

Tanzanian Cultures and Society

Precolonial and colonial history; Tanzania's socialist experiment; contemporary political and economic issues; discourses of development; cultural anthropology; human and physical geography.

Wildlife and Conservation

Paleoecology and ecological zones of Tanzania; patterns of wildlife abundance and diversity; deforestation, soil erosion, and water catchment issues; management of national parks, reserves, and game-controlled areas; animal behavior and ecology; impact of economic development and tourism on anthropogenic landscapes; conservation education; poaching and hunting; environmental law and policymaking; natural resource management.

Educational Excursions

The program includes excursions to national parks and conservation areas including Serengeti, Tarangire, and Lake Manyara National Parks; Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area; Mazumbai Forest Reserve; Ndarakwai Ranch; Loliondo Game Controlled Area; and Enashiva Nature Reserve. All excursions are designed with the objective of changing scales and locations, providing a variety of perspectives through which to explore essential questions.

Intensive Language Study: Swahili

SWAH 1000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Emphasis 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. Based on in-country evaluation, students with previous Swahili knowledge who test higher than the course offerings that semester will pursue Guided Self-Instruction.

Environmental Field Study Seminar

ENVI 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

A course in research methods in both the social and natural sciences. The main focus is on learning how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and ecological data to critically understand and evaluate program-related political ecology issues. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. Specific social field study methods include designing research projects; writing a research proposal; interviewing; surveys; participatory rural-appraisal techniques; maintaining a field study journal; non-statistical analysis of qualitative data. Specific ecological field study methods include micro- and macrohabitat analysis; wildlife population sampling and analysis; fauna and flora identification; animal behavior; Geographic Information Systems; and statistical analysis of data sets.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Arusha, Moshi, or surrounding areas or, with program approval, in other parts of Tanzania. **Sample topic areas:** impact of tourism on local cultures or the natural environment; perspectives on management options in designated wildlife areas; environmental education; soil conservation in Mayo Village; body modifications among Maasai

AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Arusha

Language Study Swahili

Homestay Arusha, 3 weeks

Rural Homestay Maasai village, 1 week

Other Accommodations Hostels, private homes, small hotels, and 33 nights of camping

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites Previous college-level coursework and/or other significant preparation in environmental studies, ecology, biology, sociology, anthropology, international relations, or related fields, as assessed by SIT.

at Ngare Sero; behavior of *Colobus guereza* in Sagara Forest; canopy and habitat use in sympatric primate species; modernized farming methods in Mgambo; Kibosho youths' views on population and the environment; vegetation analysis of elephant damage at Ndarakwai Ranch. **Note:** Because of restrictions on fieldwork in Tanzania, students should expect to spend all or most of the Independent Study Project outside the boundaries of Tanzania's national parks.