

Curriculum for Development Studies Track Students Fall and Spring Semesters
Public Health Students Spring Semester
Academic Year Students
Nairobi Kenya

Kiswahili (3 credit hours required)

Kiswahili is the largest and fastest growing African-based language spoken in Africa. Between 100 and 150 million people speak it in various capacities. It is the lingua franca for most of East Africa and parts of Central Africa. It is also the national or official language of at least five nations; Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Union of the Comoros. As a part of cultural immersion, the AU program in Nairobi offers the students a semester-long Kiswahili course. While we primarily offer the Beginners' and Intermediate Kiswahili, students who choose to study in Kenya for the full year may be able to take more advanced Swahili through special arrangement with the AU Abroad office.

The Social and Political History of Kenya (3 credit hours required)

Over the last hundred years, Kenya has played an important role in the world economy whether this was through the Indian Ocean trade, European colonization, the Cold War, or most recently, the globalism of the new world order. These processes have affected Kenya's cultural institutions, political and social organizations, and belief and value systems in significant ways. In order to make sense of the country's past in the present, this course examines a range of thematic topics, among others; the social and political institutions in pre-colonial Kenya societies, the establishment of European settlements and the colonial political economy; anti-colonial African nationalism; the world wars and their impacts on Kenya; and the post-colonial Cold War geopolitics in Kenya. We also examine the most pressing issues facing the country today, among these, the Neo-liberal reforms and the globalism phenomena of the twenty first century. The students will have the opportunity to visit the important research sites such as the Kenya National Archives, and write a research paper on a specific issue affecting Kenya's historical or contemporary development.

Externship (3 credit hours required)

Many students choose the Kenya program because of the hands-on experience gained at the externship sites. The program has a pool of community development organizations based in Nairobi. The foci of these organizations cover a wide range of subjects and include water and sanitation programs, youth empowerment projects, microfinance institutions, arts for social change initiatives, human rights and justice among others. Public Health Students will receive a list of externship opportunities that meets the specific needs of the program. Students can work with the resident director to arrange for externships that meet their career or study needs.

Participants will choose two from among the following course options:

United States International University (USIU) course (3 credit hours)

Students choose one course from the United States International University, AU's partner university in Nairobi. With a student body of approximately 3,000 students from more than 45 nations, USIU is one of the largest private, secular universities in East Africa. Course descriptions are available on the USIU [website](#). Subject areas include international relations, criminal justice, gender studies, public health, and sociology. (Please note that Psychology and Business courses are not available to AU students.)

International Development and Institutional Strengthening in Kenya (3 credit hours)

This course will introduce students to institutional development in Kenya. It will explore the culture, discourse and practice of international development practitioners in Kenya and their bearing on institutional building and strengthening. The course will incorporate current debates within the field of international development and the various organizations and institutions working on development in Kenya. Guest speakers will provide students with opportunities to learn directly from the experts and practitioners representing a range of development organizations. The students will be introduced to many of the core activities of development organizations – project planning, proposal

writing, monitoring and evaluation – and the characteristics of successful organizations. Given that this course will be offered as a complement to students' externships with grassroots NGOs and community-based organizations, the students will have a good opportunity for to link their coursework to their externship experiences and to ask deeper questions about development interventions and their impacts on a country such as Kenya.

Geographies of Gender in Development (3 credit hours)

This course will investigate a number of competing conceptions of development within the African context from a gendered perspective. The underlying political, economic, social, and gender dynamics that make "development" a continuing global problem will be explored by looking at issues such as health and reproductive rights, livelihoods and land rights, human security and political participation. It will examine women's contributions to, challenges to, and revisions of the terms of key conceptual and political debates in development.

The following option is for Academic Year participants:

Independent Research Project (3-6 credit hours offered to full-year students in the second semester)

Students who choose to stay in Kenya for a full year will do an independent study during their second semester. Through consultations with the country director and professors at AU (or for non-AU students, professors at their home universities), students will be given an independent study advisor and spend the semester exploring a specific topic. This will culminate in a final project or paper that may be combined with a capstone project or senior thesis.