

Learning Across Borders: A Global Health Travel Experience

Summer 2024

CPH 559—HPRO 898

3-credit hours



CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT



Course Description

This course will provide an overview of global health issues and allow students to experience being a student who crosses borders to study public health in action in a destination country. Students will gain insights into the challenges and strategies involved in promoting and improving global health, with the destination country serving as a specific case study. This includes learning about the destination country from a health perspective, politics, economics, etc., while learning how to collaborate across borders. Students will engage with real-world examples and experiences in our destination country throughout the course through virtual and in-person interactions and field visits. This course includes international travel with additional fees associated beyond the course tuition.



Course Description

This course includes two learning components. The first component is the online learning content, which includes video lectures, readings, journal articles, and guest lectures.

The second component consists of international travel, where you and your classmates will experience global health firsthand in a destination country. During this time, the class will attend in-person meetings, participate in tours, and experience public health in our destination country.

Brief Syllabus & Course Schedule



- Summer 2024: 13-week session May 13-Aug 9
- Asynchronous online course
 - With mandatory international travel June 11-22nd**
- May have some live presentations/Q&A to get a chance at some interaction with classmates prior to travel; these will be recorded if you are unable to join

Brief Syllabus & Course Schedule



- General Topics
 - Introduction to Global Health, SDGs vs MDGs
 - A History of Rwanda & the Rwandan Genocide of 1994
 - Rwanda's Healthcare System
 - Major Public Health Interventions in Rwanda
 - Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)
 - Infectious Disease
 - And more...



Travel Dates

- June 11-22, 2024 (approximately 2 days of travel to get there, 9 days on the ground, and 2 days to return home)
- Planning for a group flight out of Omaha, but for those in other parts of the country, you may be able to join us on the way if that route is best for you.
 - Ideally, we all want to arrive in Rwanda together.



Introduction to Rwanda



Population: 13,400,541 (2023 est.) ~slightly smaller than Maryland (w/ 6.2 million people)



Introduction to Rwanda

- A Rwandan kingdom dominated the Great Lakes region from the mid-18th century onward, with Tutsi rulers conquering others militarily and centralizing power.
- German colonial conquest began in the late 1890s
- The territory was ceded to Belgian forces in 1916 during World War I.
- Rwandan independence came in 1962.
- Conflict between Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups continued for decades, including major genocide in 1994.
- Rwanda held its first local elections in 1999 and its first presidential and legislative elections in 2003.



Introduction to Rwanda

- Rwanda hosts over 127,000 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.
- Known as one of the safest countries in Africa
- It's also a very clean country as plastic bags were banned back in 2008





Kigali, Rwanda

- City was founded in 1907 by German explorer Richard Kandt
- Capital city (since 1962)
- City is spread over 4 hills
- The Nyabarongo River, part of the upper headwaters of the Nile, forms the western and southern borders of the administrative city of Kigali





Basic In-Country Sites

Note: *subject to change*

- A women's employment center and community/neighborhood walking tour
- The Kigali Genocide Memorial Center
- The University Teaching Hospital of Kigali
- A UN Millennium Village
- The University of Rwanda
- The Rwandan Institute for Conservation Agriculture (RICA)
- A Safari trip to Akagera National Park
- And more...

Photos of Rwanda



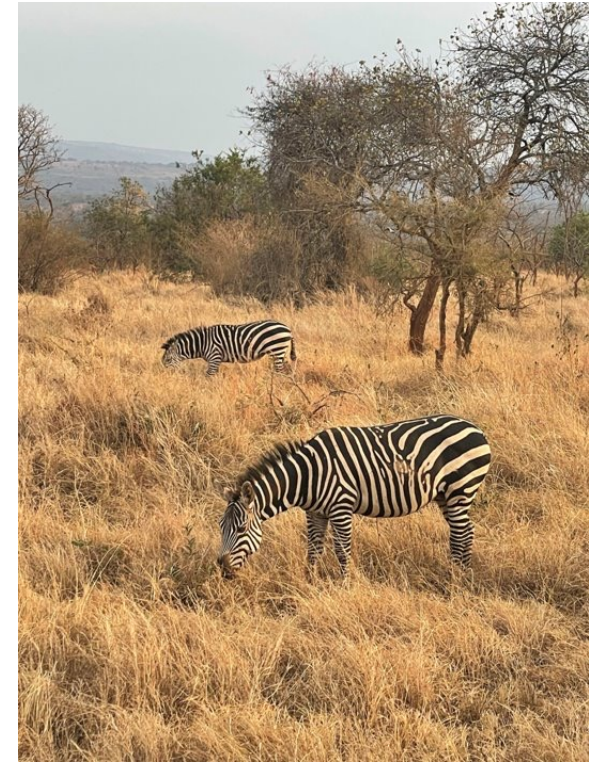
Photos of Rwanda



Photos of Rwanda



Photos of Rwanda





Room & Board

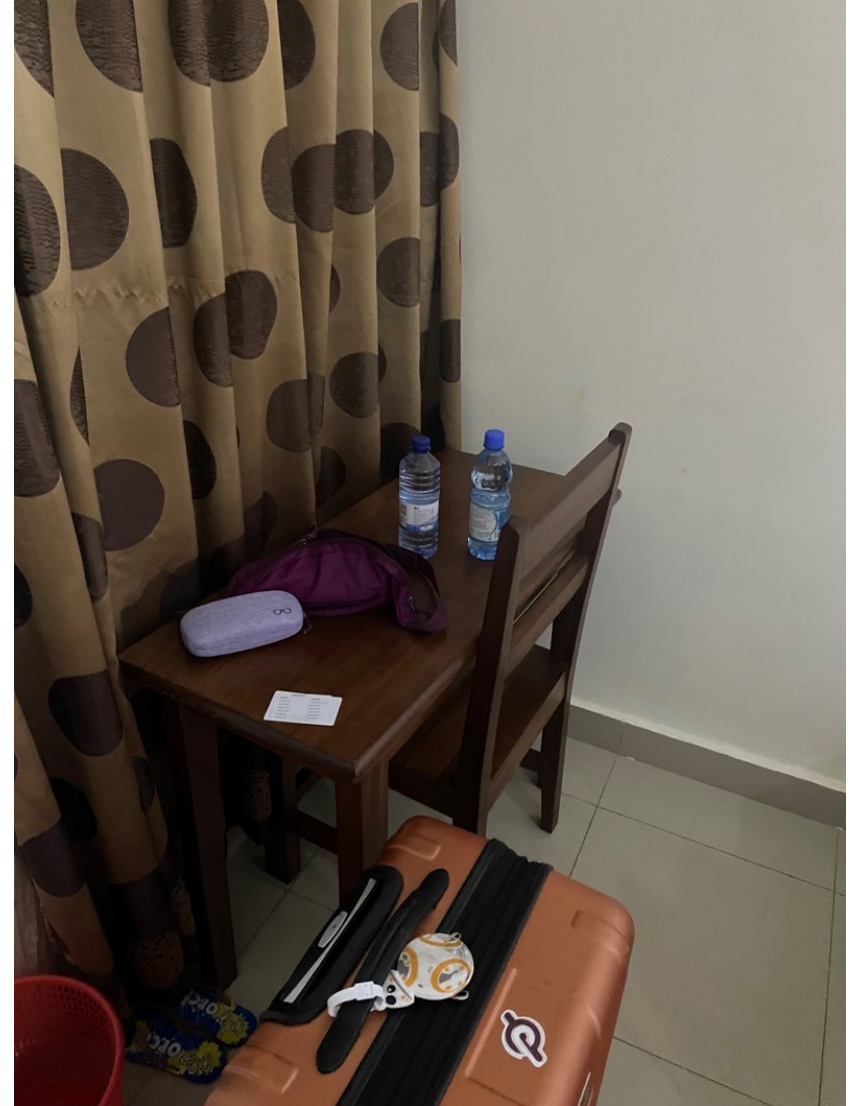
- Single rooms available in Kigali
- Double rooms may be required in other locations (Akagera, RICA?)
- Meals (all) prearranged – dietary restrictions will be accommodated
- Strongly suggest renting a personal Wi-Fi hotspot device to ensure mobile access at all times in Rwanda

Example of Guesthouse





Example of Guesthouse





Course Costs

- Program \$3,500-\$5,500 (much depends on airfare prices next summer)
- Online Tuition (standard COPH fees)
- Other Expenses (passport/visa, vaccinations, souvenirs, snacks, beverages/alcohol, cellular/Wi-Fi hot spot)
- FAFSA assistance available
- Stipend/Scholarship for this first year (\$1,500-\$2,000 per enrolled student)



Health & Safety

- Your health and safety while traveling is the utmost importance to us
- If you have any health concerns/challenges, we will want to know of them to help make a plan of action for while you are in-country in Rwanda
- We may advise students to take vaccination precautions against infectious diseases such as malaria (a daily pill pre-, during, and post-trip)



Passport & Visa

- Need to have a valid passport (start now if applicable)
- The visa is easy, just pay (\$50) at the airport upon arrival
- International students may require extra steps/fees but we will work with you

International Pre-Travel Orientation Course



- Once you officially register in March, you will be enrolled in this 8-module Canvas course to complete at your leisure. It is in your best interest to start working on it early as it will help you with your planning and travel preparation. You will need to complete it by June 4th.
- During the course we will also do some specific lectures and activities to prepare you for your trip to Rwanda



Q & A

What questions do you have?



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