



*Department of International Health and Development,
School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine*

KENYA FIELD COURSE 2007

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What? The official course title is “Health and Development in Kenya in the Age of HIV and AIDS” (INHL 653: We just call it “The Kenya Course”). This title reflects our wide-ranging embrace of issues, with a focus on the *intersection* of health, poverty, gender, and environment in a developing country setting. You rarely spend time inside a normal classroom, but will be visiting agencies, projects, farms, and villages to learn about issues from the ground. See the course syllabus for more information on the content, objectives and activities.

When? The official dates for the course are **Monday July 9, 2007 (8AM) through Tuesday, July 31, 2007 (5 pm)**. Practically, you need to be in country by at least Sunday July 8, preferably sooner. The course ends on Lake Victoria: allowing for in-country travel, you won’t be able to depart Nairobi before Wednesday Aug 1, and that will be tight. Allow several days before and after the course for adjustment and side trips.

Who? Primary Instructor: Laura Murphy (lmurphy2@tulane.edu) & Kate Macintyre. We have several invited in-country lecturers and resource persons from local organizations.

What will it cost? Adding up airfare, the course fee, and miscellaneous costs: we estimate it will cost you around \$3500 plus tuition.

1. **Course Fee:** A non-refundable course fee of **\$600** to defray extraordinary costs of in-country transport (expensive!), donations to host communities, and supplemental in-country emergency evacuation insurance. This fee is non-refundable except in case of a medical emergency or official course cancellation.
2. **Airfare:** Estimated air travel, round-trip per person, around \$2,000. Search for deals through the internet, student travel agencies (STA Travel), and online discount travel site. It varies depending on the departure date: July is high season, so if you can leave earlier in June, you might find cheaper fares.
3. **Tuition:** Three (3) credits, at the going rate. **ALL** participating students must register and pay full tuition as for a normal class. There will be no partial credit and no auditing.
4. **Food and Board:** You need to pay for this in advance (deposit) and as we travel. We estimate you need about \$20-30/day for food, lodging and incidentals (toiletries, sundries, snacks). In

urban areas, students will stay in a modest hostel with 3 meals/day (at the bargain rate of \$20/day). The tent camping safari will be priced per person based on real costs, but runs approximately \$30/day. We keep all costs as low as possible, keeping in mind your health and security in choice of location, accommodation, transport, etc. More details will follow. We might ask for a **deposit** to cover advance arrangements on your behalf (in essence, this will be part of your food and board, paid up front).

5. **Visa:** A single-entry visitor's visa cost \$50 in Kenya. Procure this at the airport upon arrival. You can also arrange this yourself in advance through the Kenyan Embassy in Washington DC (go online for details).
6. **Course Materials:** There will be an electronic coursepack (which you can print out or read in advance online) and (recommended) books might run up to \$50-\$70.
7. **Miscellaneous other costs:** Additional costs might include: supplemental health insurance (if you don't have Tulane coverage), additional travel costs to/from Kenya and before/after the course; extra travel gear, vaccinations, optional malaria prophylactic (beyond what we supply), and other particular needs you might have.

How do I pay for it? Is there Financial Aid?

Many students take out a summer loan to cover travel, the fee, and per diem. General informational meetings for Public Health financial aid will be held by the FA office in February and March.

Will I need any vaccines for travel in Kenya?

Yes, a detailed list of necessary vaccines will be provided. Check the CDC website for health information on Kenya. If you have specific health concerns, contact an instructor. Malaria prophylaxis (Larium/Mefloquine) will be provided to students; it is highly recommended, but not required, that you take it. Malarone (\$\$) and doxycycline are alternatives. We will provide deet repellent for malarial regions.

What about health insurance?

All participating students **MUST** provide proof of current personal health coverage (i.e., Tulane health plan or other plan that might cover you). Otherwise, you cannot attend per university regulation. You also need emergency medical evacuation insurance, which we will purchase on your behalf and is covered by the course fee.

What about security & terrorism in Kenya?

Many travel advisories warn Americans about the potential for terrorism in East Africa, including Kenya. So far, the Department of State warnings have not prevented many Tulane professors and graduates from working and studying in Kenya, but the security situation may worsen. The course could be cancelled in the event of terrorist activity or the perceived imminent threat of terrorist activity. In such case course deposits would be returned in full. You might investigate personal travel insurance to recover any money lost on airfare due to a cancelled trip.

What about other security problems?

Nairobi and other cities can be dangerous; everyone should take extra precautions when moving about the city, at night and while traveling.

Will I need any special equipment for this course?

You need to bring a lightweight sleeping bag, flashlight, hiking/walking shoes, proper clothing and other personal gear. All additional camping materials (tents, mats, stoves, potable water, first aid kit, etc.) will be provided on the safari. A detailed packing list will be provided. Plan ahead so you can borrow, share, or get what you need in time.

How many students can attend?

Ideally, 12-18; no more than 22, as transport and facilities prohibit larger groups.

I am not in the SPHTM; Can I hope to participate?

Priority is given to IHD students; students from other departments, schools (and even other universities) are welcome if space allows.

Will I be able to do a Practicum in Kenya?

One of the course objectives is to help students to arrange a Practicum by providing opportunities to meet NGOs, government agencies, USAID, etc. You can arrange a Practicum before leaving on the course, but you would have to know who to work with, and fill out all the forms beforehand. That can be difficult. You might prefer to use the course to get familiar with the country and institutions, and arrange your Practicum for a later date.

Will this course meet any core requirements?

This does not meet any core requirements of the SPHTM or departments. It can fill out your substantive area focus for a concentration in HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, food security, health policy and management, maternal and child health, reproductive health, sustainable development, etc. It will provide valuable in-depth experiences in Sub-Saharan Africa to fill out your MPH program.

Are there any prerequisites?

There are no official course requirements, but we expect that you are an experienced and mature traveler. Prior international travel is highly recommended. This course is not intended for first-time international travelers. You should already have a passport.

What language will the course be taught in?

English: The course presentations, readings, exercises, etc will be in English. During field trips we will encounter many other languages and translators will be available wherever necessary. Kiswahili will be spoken by many hosts and key informants. Students are encouraged to learn at least a little Kiswahili (procure language tapes, or seek out a tutor at Tulane).

How do I Apply?

You must submit a formal application **electronically**, by email. Use the form below in the body text of an email or as an attachment. We hope to admit all who are seriously interested and able to meet the requirements of the field course (financial, academic, and otherwise). If demand is high, we will select participants after reviewing files and conducting personal interviews with student. Plan to attend any orientation meetings, and meet all deadlines for the course fee, hotel deposits, registration for the class, etc.

Kenya 2007 Application Form

To apply for the Kenya Summer Field Course:

- supply the following information, in order
- Send it by email (in the body text or as an attachment) to lmurphy2@tulane.edu
- Use your TULANE email
- Read your Tulane email for response and follow-up information

Sign up for the Kenya Field Course

- Full Name:
- Tulane email address
- Local phone /cellphone #
- Home Department at Tulane
- Concentration area
- When did you start at Tulane?
- Expected month of graduation?
- 2-3 sentences on your academic experience/background (UG, before TU)
- 2-3 sentences on prior international travel/work
- 2-3 sentences on your career plans after Tulane
- Short statement: Why are you interested in the Kenya Field Course?
- Level of interest: seriously interested, committed, and have the funds? "Not sure" because you are considering other summer options? "Interested" but dependent on financing?

All information will be held in confidence by the instructors.