

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

Course Title:	Ecology of East African Ecosystems
Instructor(s):	Dr. Jeremy Kerr (jkerr@uottawa.ca; 613-562-5800 x4577; http://www.macroecology.ca/) Dr. Rachelle Desrochers Course website: http://www.macroecology.ca/tanzania
Dates:	ROUGHLY August 18 – September 1, 2017 (3 credits) *dates are chosen to minimize flight costs
Location:	Tanzania
Cost:	<i>Approximately</i> \$5500 (\$350 deposit to home university, \$5150 balance); The exact cost will depend upon airfares, itineraries, and the international monetary exchange rates at the time our booking is made. We have no control over such fluctuations and students must recognize that costs may vary by significant amounts. Includes: airfare, accommodations, travel within country, and food; Excluded: additional costs for travel medicine and a travel visa are necessary.
Prerequisites:	Completion of second year university biology program, including introductory ecology course, or equivalent that we recognize is mandatory. Permission of the instructor and satisfactory completion of the course's risk assessment materials are required. NOTE: For safety reasons, students must agree to and abide by a code of conduct, take responsibility for their actions in the field, and formally recognize risks they would incur in Africa. NOTE: Participants must be able to hike for moderate periods in warm weather and at elevations. Safety rules in the field must constantly be observed. Participants must contact a travel physician prior to the start of the course regarding necessary vaccinations, preventative medications and to receive advice regarding personal medical requirements (e.g. asthma or allergies). All participants must have a passport that will be valid for six months past the end of the course. Citizens of most countries (including Canadians) require a visa before departure. Travel abroad involves inevitable risks; consult the Foreign Affairs travel web site. Additional information on risks will be provided.
Enrolment:	22 students (12 reserved for Ottawa)
Description:	This course introduces major ecosystems in northern Tanzania, East Africa. Ecosystems in the area include different kinds of forests, savannahs, and higher elevation ecosystems on the slopes of extinct volcanoes. A main activity of the course will be a safari through the national parks and conservation areas of northern Tanzania (selected from Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Tarangire, and Arusha). We will discuss how ecological interactions in this region are shaped by climate, wildlife migration, volcanic history, and human use of different habitats. We will observe species' behaviour and interactions in the field. The course may include consideration of major diseases in the region, including malaria and trypanosomiasis, and community-based conservation. Before the course, each participant will be asked to become the "course expert" for a particular ecological or conservation topic and to prepare a short seminar on the subject, which will be presented informally to the group during evenings in the field. Formal reports must be submitted within three weeks after return to Canada.

***\$350 Deposit is due at time of registration.

Tuition at your home institution is *in addition* to any field module costs.

Students who drop a field course should not expect a refund of any field course costs.

Students are encouraged to purchase cancellation insurance if airline tickets are required.

Students are responsible for all fees incurred by the home or host university due to any bounced cheque.

Evaluation:	Risk management assignment, completed as a condition of credit prior to departure	10%
	Oral participation and engagement with course activities	15%
	Oral presentation in the field based on a topic selected and research prior to departure	15%
	Field book: observations and responses to questions completed in the field.	25%
	Final essay: expanded and scholarly presentation of material covered in the oral presentation for the course, using primary scientific literature (i.e. journal articles) as sources.	35%
*All components of the course must be completed.		

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