This course provides students the opportunity to participate in an intense four week field-based learning experience that focuses on human origin, climate change and adaptability (with special emphasis in paleoanthropology, health geography, medical anthropology, GIS, and culture of the Maasai of the Ngorongoro Highlands in northern Tanzania. The field school is a collaborative effort of several academic institutions; including the University of Colorado Denver, University of Calgary, and Bugando University College of Health Sciences in Mwanza, Tanzania, as well as Endulen Hospital in Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Dates
July 10– August 10, 2010

Credits
ANTH 4995/5995 (6 credits) or GEOG 4995/5995 (6 credits)

Cost
$5800. Final cost TBA

Application deadline

Contact the faculty
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Visit the Tanzania Field School website:
http://www.cudenver.edu/clas/tanzania
http://thunder1.cudenver.edu/clas/anthropology/fieldOps.html
Summer 2010: Tanzania

Program Location

Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Laetoli and Olduvai Gorge) in Arusha Region in northern Tanzania. Geographically, Tanzania exhibits some of the most diverse, awesome, and breathtaking topography known to humankind. Although Tanzania is still very much a developing country, it offers a unique and exhilarating backdrop for intense and academically and culturally rewarding study. Tanzania’s diverse and ever-changing landscape - the awe-inspiring Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Serengeti Plains, the Ngorongoro Crater, and the many coastal sites scattered along the shores of the Indian Ocean - houses some of the richest fauna, flora, and indigenous cultural groups with which to interact. Such a remarkable array of cultural and natural elements helps to ensure an educational experience that proves second to none.

Program Location: Laetoli and Olduvai Gorge within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in northern Tanzania, as well as Mwanza on Lake Victoria.

Course Description

This is a 6 credit research-based travel study course that provides students with an intense four week field-based learning experience that focuses on human origin, climate change and adaptability in Tanzania. The field school emphasis is on paleoanthropology, health geography, medical anthropology, GIS, archaeology, and culture of nomadic pastoralists of the Ngorongoro Highlands in Tanzania.

Endowed with some of the most spectacular and world famous archaeological and paleoanthropological sites, Tanzania presents focused, self-driven students with an opportunity to become deeply immersed and engaged in the beauty and splendor of a unique cultural and prehistoric tour de force. The field school, which is a collaboration of three academic institutions in the US, Canada, and Tanzania, offers students: 1) a memorable, yet academically challenging chance to walk in the footsteps of our ancestors, a journey which began a mere 3.56 million years ago; 2) unique insights on health through the connection to Endulen Hospital; 3) the opportunity to explore the beauty and wonders that one of Africa’s most peaceful countries, Tanzania, has to offer; and 4) make lifelong, meaningful connections with cultures rich in diversity.

Objectives

The objective of the UCD Tanzania Field School in human origin, climate change and adaptability is to provide students with opportunities to participate in rigorous, yet culturally enriching training and research projects where students will:

- Be involved in inquiry-oriented investigations in anthropology, geography, and public health in which they will interact with peers, teachers, and the participating Tanzanian communities;
- Gain experience in accessing the scientific knowledge found in a variety of sources, including field lectures, actualistic experiments, and observations;
- Apply science contents to new research problems in society and health issues, ecology and conservation, and paleoanthropological research;
- Engage in problem-solving, planning, decision-making, and group discussions on a variety of issues relevant to the field school research topics.

Instructional Methods

The course is offered in the field with a hands-on activities approach (30 hrs per week) where students will explore various research questions related to the human condition. For example, students will spend 3 - 4 hours in the mornings surveying, systematically collecting fossil specimens or doing actualistic studies with supervision from field assistants and instructors. Appointed instructors in the afternoon will offer lectures of 2-3 hours per day and students will be expected to take notes, keep field journals and take part in-group discussions in the evenings.