

Course Syllabus (Draft)

Course Information

Course Number/Section:	IMS 3V94-051
Course Title:	Regional Management Area Studies: Africa-Rwanda
Term:	Fall 2023
Days & Time:	During the Fall Break 2023 (Nov 18 – Nov 26)

Contact Information

Instructor:	Prof. Habte Woldu
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Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites and/or Other Restrictions

No Pre-Requisites, Open to Graduate and Undergraduate Students

Course Description

The course is conducted as a seminar in Kigali, Rwanda. The course helps students assess the business environments in Africa by focusing on Rwanda. In the last few decades, international business organizations and academic institutions have been focusing on emerging countries' economies. Among them, Rwanda, has been featured as one of the most attractive countries in Africa. Students through group projects and company study tours and discussion with university faculty members and government officials will be able to learn about the business opportunities and challenges that exist in emerging countries and specifically in emerging countries such as Rwanda. Furthermore, students in the course, will be able to assess the state of import and export trends and foreign direct investment dynamics with reference to the influence of United States and global competition in the African region.

Students by reading articles, visiting companies, conducting discussion with local officials will have the opportunity to learn about the:

- Dynamics and different aspects of business operations in Kigali.
- Historical background of Kigali and its relationship with major global economic players, including the U.S.
- Evaluating Rwanda's role in the global economy by analyzing its import and export and the inflow of FDI.
- Challenges and opportunities of conducting international businesses in Rwanda
- Understanding how the Rwanda's past difficult socio-political situation was managed and the lessons learned that can be useful for other emerging countries, especially for other countries.
- Understanding the economic policies that led Rwanda's success in certain economic sectors such as IT.
- Determining the long-term economic and political strategies of Rwanda.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon finishing the course, students will be able to manage the following core issues:

- Recognize the significance of Rwandan economic and its integration with the global economy.
- Analyze the opportunities/challenges of conducting businesses in Rwanda.
- Compare and contrast the business operations models of both Rwanda and the U.S.
- Recognize the empowering of women and sustainability of Rwandan economic development.

Class Participation

You are expected to attend every session and actively participate in the discussion and cultural activities.

Program Fee

The scholarship will cover the program fee which include the following items: cost of coach/bus where necessary, bus driver, hotel (double occupancy), internet access, breakfast and lunch every day, local guide/translator, and entrance fee for culture site visits.

Please note that students are responsible for their tuition, roundtrip airfare, visas, travel, medical insurance, meals other than stated, extra beverages at the restaurants (especially all alcoholic drinks), personal expenses, and other extras.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Room	To Do
Oct 07 – Sat (09:00 -12:00 PM)	TBD	Pre-Trip orientation
Oct 14 – Sat (09:00 -12:00 PM)	TBD	Pre-Trip class session
Oct 21 – Sat (09:00 -12:00 PM)	TBD	Pre-Trip class session
Oct 28 – Sat (09:00 -12:00 PM)	TBD	Pre-Trip class session
Nov 04 – Sat (09:00 -12:00 PM)	TBD	Pre-Trip class session
Nov 11 – Sat (09:00 -12:00 PM)	TBD	Pre-Trip class session
Nov 18– 26 (Trip Activities)	Kigali, Rwanda	(see page 5)
Dec 02 – Sat (09:00 - 12:00 PM)	TBD	Post-Trip class session & presentations

Course Policy: Be Advised

1. General

- a. Students are responsible for applying and securing appropriate Visa on their own.
- b. Announcements or changes will be through the eLearning and/or UT Dallas email.
- c. If you missed a class session, company, or cultural visit, either planned or unplanned for any reason (conference, work related meeting/project, business trip, wedding, family ceremonies, illness, etc.), then you will receive a grade of zero for that missed assignment, company or cultural visit.
- d. You MUST communicate with the instructor only via your UTD email account only (FERPA purposes).
- e. The instructor reserves the right to change the grading policy without any notice due to unforeseen circumstances such as dishonesty, cheating, etc. and change the already published grades on eLearning and/or Galaxy if there has been a miscalculation.

2. Assignments

- a. Plagiarism is a big issue in higher education. Access to information has produced an increasing temptation for students to download Web material, possibly modify it and hand it in as their own unaided work. Taking the words or ideas of another person and using them without proper acknowledgement is a commonly accepted definition of plagiarism.
- b. Any student who is found responsible for committing an act of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of “F” or zero on that quiz, exam, assignment, project, or course.
- c. Assignments must be submitted to eLearning. Late submission of an assignment will receive a grade of zero. The accepted files for submitting assignments are ONLY Microsoft Suite files or video clips via YouTube. There will be NO make-up for a missed assignment nor any project for an extra credit. Assignments will be graded based on their appropriateness, contents, and formatting.
- d. It is recommended that students submit their assignment documents a few days before the deadline, instead, of waiting for the last minutes of deadline. Allow yourself enough time in case there is an issue with your system, internet, or document. If you of difficulties of uploading your document to eLearning, then try changing the browser, clearing cookies and cache, and turning off pop-up blockers. If you are still unable to upload your document, contact JSOM IT support at 972-883-5800. Lastly, you may want to ask one of your group members to upload the document on-time.

- e. Students will be working in groups decided by the instructor. For group assignments, you are not allowed to work alone or submit a work by yourself, unless you make a strong case and justify why that should be the case.

Assignments and Grading Policy (Note: assignments differ for students taking less than 3 credits)

	Assignment	Details	Assignment Level	3 Credit Hours-Points	2 Credit Hours-Points	1 Credit Hours-Points
Pre-trip	Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in reading and discussion on Africa and Rwanda related topics Attendance at pre-trip seminars and timely completion of required protocol 	Individual	10	15	20
	Pre-trip research/presentation	Research will be done on one of the topics below and will be presented in one of the pre-trip classes.	Group	25	25	30
During trip	Active participation in trip seminars and events	Participation in seminars, presentation, company visits and events during the trip organized by JSOM and host entities while maintaining the followings (5 points each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professionalism Punctuality Dress code Active participation in all activities 	Individual	25	30	30
	Video Project	Video Project (See description under course assignment)	Group	15	15	20
Post trip	Attendance	Attendance at post-trip seminars and timely completion of required protocol	Individual	10	-	-
	Post-trip Presentation	PPT Presentation, Topic-Understanding the People If enrolled in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 semester credit hours, Participate in all post trip sessions and presentation 2 semester credit hours, Presentation but no attendance other than during presentation 1 semester credit hour, no presentation due, no attendance required 	Group	15	15	-
				100	100	100

Scale

94 – 100 A	75 – 78 C+
90 – 93 A-	69 – 74 C
87 – 89 B+	Below 69 F
83 – 86 B	
79 – 82 B-	

Pre-Trip Assignment (Group Presentation) – Submit to eLearning

Each group will be required to conduct research and present to the class on one of the following topics. The purpose is to educate the class on the topic given.

Assignment	Format
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT sector related infrastructural development Understanding the Rwandan culture and its impact on the economy Discuss the knowledge you need to conduct effective business practice in Rwanda Assess Rwanda’s competitive advantage that can be attractive to multinational firms entering the market Discuss the role Rwanda plays in the African Union Evaluate the openness of Rwanda’s economic policy on the global economy Lessons learned on Rwanda-specific reconciliation and peace process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The size of the groups will be determined once the class size is determined Presentations should be no more than 10 slides although appendix are allowed All members of the team must present their group case Students will have 20 minutes to present with 10 minutes of Q & A. A 5-pages group project will be uploaded to the assignment tab on blackboard. Presentations must be submitted by the time of the presentation Dress code for presentations is business casual,

Video Project (Group) Assignment

Each group will develop a short video that will showcase the learnings, cultural experiences, and bonding of the trip. Each group is encouraged to use creativity to produce a 4–5-minute video. Videos will be evaluated based on content depth, research, incorporation of trip excursions and learnings, and overall development. The video is due during the presentation day after the trip, during the post-trip seminar.

Post Trip Assignment (Cultural Presentation)

Assignment	Format
Presentations should be an in-depth evaluation of the companies visited, Rwandan institutions, history and culture. The presentation should be accompanied by a short video clips illustrating the presentation topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The size of the groups for presentation will be determined after the total enrollment in the course is determined.

File Naming Convention

User the following guideline to name your files properly.

- IMS3V72_Pre-Trip_FirstName_LastName.docx
- IMS 3V72 Global Trip experience _ FirstName_LastName.docx
- IMS 3V72_Post-Trip Project presentation-FirstName_LastName.docx

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Program Itinerary

Day/Dates	Location	Agenda
Sun, Nov 19	Kigali	Personal welcome at the airport (evening arrival), transfer to the hotel, check-in
Mon, Nov 20	Kigali	In-country orientation and program briefing
		Visit to the Nyamirambo Women's Center and guided walking tour of the colorful lower-class suburb of Nyamirambo, including home lunch
		Historical exploration of Kigali with highlights of pre-colonial, colonial, independence, genocide and post-genocide times, including a visit to the Kigali Memorial Center, the country's main genocide memorial and museum
		Welcome dinner at Repub Lounge
Tue, Nov 21	Kigali	Visit to the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), the government's One Stop Shop for business and investments, to explore how Rwanda has become one of the most competitive places to do business in Africa
		Visit to the U.S. Embassy to learn why supporting Rwanda's continued economic development is one of its main priorities and what it does to foster private sector development
		Lunch included; dinner on own
Wed, Nov 22	Kigali	Visit to Norrsken House Kigali, Africa's biggest entrepreneurship hub created by Norrsken, a non-profit impact ecosystem connecting founders with the capital, knowledge, and network they need to make saving the world their business
		Lunch included; dinner on own
Thru, Nov 23	Kigali	Experiential introduction to sustainable development in practice - curated Sustainable Development City Tour of Kigali with various site visits
		Visit to the campus of African Leadership University for an introduction ALU's unique approach and an opportunity to engage with ALU faculty and students
		Lunch included; dinner on own
Fri, Nov 24	Kayonza & Akagera NP	Transfer to Kayonza and visit to Zipline to learn about drone delivery
		Lunch at Urugo Eco-Lodge at the Women's Opportunity Center of Women for Women International, followed by a tour and overview of their work to empower women
		Transfer to Akagera National Park and afternoon safari game drive
		Check-in at the lodge, farewell dinner
Sat, Nov 25	Akagera NP & Kigali	Morning safari game drive
		Check-out, lunch, transfer to Kigali
		Visit to Kimironko Market and shopping opportunity
		Transfer to the airport and personal farewell (evening departure)

Exclude: International transport (flights, airport taxes etc), visas, travel and medical insurance, meals other than stated, extra beverages at the restaurants (especially including all alcoholic drinks), personal expenses and other extras