



## **Carleton Course Taught Abroad**

AFRI 3100 (0.5 credits), African Studies Abroad

Topic for Summer 2018: Social Media and the Public Sphere in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

This course will explore the rise and explosion of social media and its intersections with culture, politics, economics, governance, social issues and youth culture in Africa. Africa is often described as the continent with the most expansive youth demographic – with more than half her population under the age of thirty. This youth demographic has transformed Africa, literally and metaphorically, into what has been called the cradle of the social media revolution.

However, because of the heavy reliance on social media mobilization by the social and political movements that have rocked the continent in the last decade, social media as a tool, space and site of meaning in Africa has largely been reduced to questions of political radicalism and mobilization. This seminar will move beyond this limitation by exploring the role of social media in creating new spaces of meaning and culture in Africa. We shall explore social media and the economic revolution in Africa in terms of the emergence of a new demographic of innovators, inventors, and entrepreneurs. The course will entail field trips to innovation hubs in Nairobi and also interact with social media influencers in Kenya.

***Spaces are limited, we will accept applications and reserve spaces in order as received.***

The course is offered by the Institute of African Studies (IAS), in concert with the United States International University of Nairobi.



## **Deadlines:**

**First Information session:** Oct 4th, 2017, 10 – 12 PM Paterson 433

Students unable to attend the information session should contact IAS.

**Deadline to Apply:** to be determined after a 2nd info session in January 2018

## **Course Dates:**

- ☒ Course starts Monday, May 7, 2018
- ☒ Course ends Friday, May 25, 2018
- ☒ Visits to innovation hubs, labs, and other social media points of interest in Nairobi.
- ☒ Optional safari tour.

## **Academic Requirements:**

- ☒ Undergraduate students with third or fourth year standing by the beginning of the Summer 2018 term are eligible to apply.
- ☒ Graduate students are also welcome; they register under AFRI 5100.

## **Financial Considerations:**

**Costs:** IAS will cover accommodation and local travel in Kenya. Students are responsible for tuition, international travel, meals, visas, vaccinations, and all incidental costs, including the optional safari tour.

**Primary Contact:** Institute of African Studies at [African\\_studies@carleton.ca](mailto:African_studies@carleton.ca)

Website: <https://carleton.ca/africanstudies/ias-study-abroad-course/>