



## **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.