

SIMPSON COLLEGE
2009 MAY TERM OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL COURSE PROPOSAL

Date:

Completed forms should be submitted to the Office of International Education no later than January 15, 2008 for international travel courses and no later February 15, 2008 for domestic travel courses.

Name of proposer(s):

Virginia Croskery
Bruce Brown

Department(s):

Music

Please check one of the following:

INTERNATIONAL Off-Campus Travel Course

DOMESTIC Off-Campus Travel Course

I. Course Information

- A. Course number, if course has been offered previously:
- B. Course title: **Rwanda: Service Learning through Arts Education**
(*Note: The name of the place of study should appear in the title*)
- C. Transcript Course Title (max. 21 characters): ?
Rwanda: Service&Arts
- D. Course level (100/200/300): What is the rationale for offering the course at this level?
This would be offered as a 100 level course because there is no prerequisite required. The reading component is intense, but not extensive or rigorous.
- E. Minimum enrollment: 20
(*For 1 instructor, must be at least 10 students; for 2 instructors, must be at least 20 students.*)
If proposed minimum is less than the requirement, provide a rationale for receiving variance.
- F. Maximum enrollment: 20

II. Course Description

- A. Course goals and objectives: Given that Simpson May Term Off-Campus Travel Courses aim to provide students with an active learning curriculum that integrates a rigorous academic program with experiential immersion activities, please outline the learning objectives for your course.

The class will work with the "Art of Conservation" which is a branch of the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project, headquartered in Ruhengeri, Rwanda. AoC (Art of Conservation) strives to promote personal healing and growth, inter-tribal cooperation and general education through the arts. Scientific studies have shown that in victims of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome it is necessary to employ new experiences to repair damaged brain tissue. Since few Rwandans have experiences arts education, it has proved to be a highly successful tool for teaching there. As Rwanda is home to half of the world's endangered mountain gorillas, topics stressed by the AoC are health and preservation of the ecosystem.

The class will rely on the artistic abilities of the native population to mount a musical production. Students will be engaged in musical preparation, stage direction, choreography, costuming, set design and advertising.

- B. Rationale for the course: Please explain how the course fits in with your department and/or the college's curriculum.

This trip will immerse the students in Rwandan lifestyle. Working hand in hand with the native population offers invaluable insight into the sociological dynamics of this post-genocide country. Preparing a musical production introduces the students to the many facets of performance – both on and off stage. Using Rwandan music will give the students an introduction to ethnomusicology.

- C. In-country activities: Describe how the planned immersion activities (these could include home stays, service learning opportunities, interviews with locals, Q & A sessions with local guest lecturers/speakers, etc.) will be integrated into educational goals of the course.

Students will reside in a guest house and/or dormitory. The group will gather for breakfast and dinner daily for discussion, reflection and planning. We will divide into sub-groups for work concerning the musical production. Each sub-group will work closely with a Rwandan leader.

Other activities will include a gorilla trek in Volcano National Park and a day hike in the region. Additionally, students will attend lectures by Lucy Spelman, director of MGVP; Eric Zawaina, resident artist for AoC and Justin, director of Volcano National Park in Rwanda.

- D. Required course assignments and evaluation

1. Explain specific course requirements and indicate when they would occur (e.g., P=during the on-campus spring semester prep course, O=off-campus, and D=during the de-briefing portion of the off-campus experience; it's possible that some assignments will happen in all of the periods, e.g., Readings could be P-O-D)

- a. Participation – P-O-D

- b. Readings (please specify what these will be)

We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families, by Philip Gourevitch

Land of a Thousand Hills, by Rosamond Halsey Carr

Life Laid Bare; Survivors in Rwanda Speak, by Jean Hatzfeld and Linda Coverdale
Hotel Rwanda (film)

- c. Journal reflections
Off campus (daily journal)

- d. Exams
One - P

- e. Papers/Presentations/Field reports, etc.
Research paper during prep course
Final presentation in during De-briefing time

- f. Other assignments
Daily work of musical production, O
Planning for production, P

2. Approximately what percentage will each of the above course requirements contribute toward the final course grade?

Participation will account for 50% (includes discussion and daily work in Rwanda)

Journals and final presentation will account for 30%

Exam and paper will account for 10%

- D. Catalog course description of about 100 words which includes a statement of expected course work (papers, exams, journal writing, presentations, etc.)

This is the ultimate service learning course. Students will be immersed in daily Rwandan lifestyle. Working closely with the native population, they will experience first-hand the healing power of cooperation as we mount a musical production. All sets, costumes and skills developed will remain in Rwanda after we depart and thus continue to aid in the country's healing. Highlights will include a trek with the mountain gorillas and lectures by local experts on art and ecology. Students will be evaluated by participation, journal reflection and a final presentation.

- F. Are there prerequisites for this course? Yes No
If yes, please list them and briefly provide a rationale.

III. Other Information

- A. Has this course been offered in a previous May Terms? Yes No
If yes, please indicate *when* it was offered and the approximate enrollment.

- B. Department(s) in which credit is to be awarded:
Music

- C. If this course will meet requirements for a departmental major or minor, please explain briefly:

- D. Proposed dates of the travel course, including dates you anticipate being abroad:
(*Note: It is highly recommended that the group should depart no earlier than Sat., April 25, and should return no later than Thurs., May 14.*)

April 25 – May 10

- E. Proposed location(s) and how the site location(s) relate to the core objectives of the course:

Ruhengeri, Rwanda as it is the headquarters for the Art of Conservation and home to Volcano National Park and half of the world's remaining mountain gorillas.

- F. Indicate your level of familiarity with the site(s) visited during the course.

I am very familiar with the location, having spent a month working there in August of 2007.

- G. Will the off-campus component of this course require a significant amount of physical exertion on the part of the course participants? On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being little physical exertion and 5 being a tremendous amount of physical exertion, please rate the anticipated activities related to this course. Do you anticipate that the course activities would pose any significant challenges for someone with physical disabilities?

This course could require moderate to strenuous physical exertion; 3-4 on a scale of 1-5. Students could have some flexibility according to personal choices for work and hiking and students with physical disabilities could be accommodated. However, travel in Africa is never easy.

V. Proposed Budget for the Course
(A more precise estimate is not due until September 2, 2008)

First, estimate expenses for instructor(s) and course assistant(s), if any, (in total, not per student)

Air transportation	\$4000.00
In-country transportation	\$ -----
Lodging	\$ 600.00
Meals	\$ 500.00
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$ 1100.00
Any necessary entry visas	\$
Misc. shots – Yellow fever and Hepatitis C	\$ 120.00
Other (explain): Gifts, tips	\$ 200.00
Total instructor(s) and course assistant expenses	\$6520.00

Next, estimate the cost per student, based upon the minimum enrollment number (20) from page 1 of this document:

Air transportation	\$ 2000.00
In-country transportation	\$ 200.00
Lodging	\$ 600.00
Meals	\$ 250.00
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$ 550.00
Honorariums	\$
Tips	\$ 20.00
International Student I.D. card	\$ 22
SC Study Abroad Program Fee	\$ 100
Any necessary entry visas	\$
Contingency fund (\$100 recommended)	\$ 100.00
Other (explain): shots, Yellow Fever and Hepatitis C	\$ 120.00
Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$ 3962

Finally, divide the “Total instructor(s) and course assistant expenses” by “the minimum enrollment number (20) from page 1 of this document” to get a “per student instructor cost.” Then add

Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$ 3962
+ per student instructor cost	\$ 326
= Total per student cost	\$ 4288.00

Additional expenses not covered by the program for which students need to budget:
For example, passport @ \$97, books, meals, immunizations, trip cancellation insurance, etc.

Total estimated additional expenses not covered by the course: \$100 (books)

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Dept Chair approval: _____ Date: _____
(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

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(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

Div. Head approval: _____ Date:
(division of the instructor)

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