

HIS 3251: Peoples and Cultures of East Africa

Instructor: Parin Dossa

This course has two main goals. The first is to present an overview of the dynamic and diverse cultures of the peoples of East Africa, using ethnographic case studies. We will start with a historical profile followed by recent developments in the local and global contexts. We will then concentrate on particular topics such as patterns of migration, social relations, women's activism and development. The second goal is to engage students in fieldwork projects. Students may choose among the following topics: art, music, folklore, stories, use of textiles, food and rituals and ceremonies. We will seek to understand how these practices, observed in field sites in the region, are shaped by cultural creativity and social and political processes.

Required Texts

Fiction: TBA

Courseware Package

Grading:

Field Project:	40%
In class Test:	20%
Essay	20%
Class Participation:	20%

Schedule of Readings

Week 1

Historical Profile
Peoples and Cultures of East Africa: Overview
Ethnographic Case Studies
Fieldwork

Week 2

Health and Healing
Cultural Politics of Food
Rituals and Festivals
Fieldwork

Week 3

Kinship and Gender Relations
Women's Activism
The Market and Transnational Mobility
Fieldwork

Week 4

A View from Visual Anthropology

The Media
Arts, Culture and Music
Fieldwork