



## **SPRING 2020 STUDY ABROAD**

### **Ethiopia**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

February 27 – March 8, 2020

DIPL 2114/6710 African Union Seminar

3 Undergraduate/Graduate Credits

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The beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been an exciting and a hopeful period for Africa. Unlike the 1960-1990, where various indicators pointed to Africa's persistent dismal scores in terms of economic, political, social and cultural levels of development, the last three decades point to indicators moving in the opposite direction. These include decreases in the magnitude of war (The Guardian, January 30, 2013; Marshall 2005; Wallensteen and Sollenberg 2001), increases in popular demand for more openness and transparency; economic progress over the last decade measured in terms of GDP growth rate that surpassed those in many other regions of the world (in 2017, three of the five fastest growing economies in the world were from Africa); and increases in the frequency of elections and peaceful transfers of power. This trend, which began in the latter half of the 1990s, continued at a more rapid pace, especially after the African Union (AU) was established in 2000.

This course examines factors that gave rise to the positive developments and the sense of optimism that prevails in Africa today, with emphasis on the role of the AU in the resolution and management of conflicts. Among the questions this course addresses include: how does the AU understand the nature of conflicts in Africa? What is its role in international affairs and in what ways does it manage its relationships with international organizations, such as the UN, EU, and the Arab League; and with sub-regional organizations, such as the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and Southern African Development Community (SADC)? How does it function as an international organization consisting of fifty or more states, each having different, often competing political and economic systems, and national security objectives? What is the nature of the relationship between the USAU Mission and the AU? What roles does the AU play in dealing with the governance and security challenges posed by the plurality of religious, ethnic, and other cultural markers? How does it deal with African countries that have closer ties to western countries than to each other? And finally, what are the emerging threats to continued political and economic development of the continent?

The Specific Course activities are:

Academic:

1. Briefings and talks by Africa Union officials on conflicts and the role of the African Union in conflict resolution;
2. Briefings and talks by officials of the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia on U.S. national security interests

- in Ethiopia (and the Horn of Africa);
3. Briefings and talks by officials of the USAU Mission on U.S. national security interests in Africa;
  4. Briefings and a panel talks by officials of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on the nexus of peace and economic development;
  5. Lectures by Addis Ababa University professors on the nature and scope of conflicts in Africa, including the conflict over the Nile waters; and
  6. Briefings by various representatives on the role of NGOs in peace and development in Africa.

### **Cultural**

1. Visit to museums and historical sites in Addis Ababa, including a visit to the museum where “Lucy” (or “Dinknesh”), the first humanoid is housed;
2. Visit to Axum, the capital of the Axumite Kingdom that flourished about 2000 years ago, home of the Arc of the Covenant and the largest, single-rock obelisk in the world;
3. Visit to Gondar, the capital of Ethiopia around the 16<sup>th</sup> century, home of emperors and their castles; and
4. Visit to Lalibela, the capital of Ethiopia around the 12<sup>th</sup> century, home of the Rock-Hewn Churches. Some consider these structures as the 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World.

## **Tentative Itinerary**

Lalibela - One day (about 8 hours)

Gondar - One day (about 6 hours)

Axum - One day (about 6 hours)

Addis Ababa

- Museums, historical places, other tourist sites – about 8 hours
- AU engagements – about 5 hours
- U.S. Embassy and U.S. Mission to AU engagements – 3-4 hours
- UN-ECA engagement – 3 hours
- NGO engagement – 3 hours
- Addis Ababa University – 3 hours
- Daily meeting on the day’s activities (may take place in hotel lobby, bus, ...) – about 2 hours
- Travel to Rift Valley – 8-9 hours including bus travel time

## **Participant Requirements**

Participants should be aware that the trip will involve:

- Walking 2-3 miles per day
- Adapting to a different diet: Please notify faculty of any food restrictions
- Dressing and behaving according to local customs (i.e. dress conservatively, alcohol consumption, behavior in public, etc.)
- Self-navigate (i.e. travel throughout the city/ sites and/or use public transportation independently, etc.).
- Exposure to high temperatures and/or humidity (summer weather in Tokyo is in the 80s-90s with high humidity)

- Exposure to high altitudes

\* If you require accommodations to participate, students are encouraged to begin discussions with Disability Support Services at least six (6) months before the trip's scheduled departure date. If you have any questions about this process, please contact DSS at: [dss@shu.edu](mailto:dss@shu.edu)

## **Program Costs to Student in Addition to SHU Tuition and Airfare:**

*Undergraduate tuition will be included in your spring 2020 flat tuition rate*

Round-trip Airfare	1450
Local Travel	(included in round-trip airfare)
Lodging	1600
Meals**	See below
Other:	
Addis Ababa University Professor Stipend	550
Portion of instructor travel costs***	310

**TOTAL:** \$3,910\*

\*Total price does not include tuition. Tuition for the course will be included in your spring 2020 flat tuition rate, which covers 12-18 credits. Price subject to change based on number of participants and any other changes.

\*\*All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) except for only one (lunch and dinner) are included in lodging cost above. Also included are non-alcoholic drinks with meals, all bus service and tours (with assigned tour guides and tourist site entrance fees).

## **Basis for SHU Grade in the Course**

Pre-trip Student PowerPoint Presentation (20%)

Journal Entries (30%)

Term Research Paper (35%)

Activity Participation (15%).