African Issues Concentration

New for 2014/2015 at JKSIS

(This concentration can be incorporated into a JKSIS degree with the approval of the degree director)

The African continent is the focus of major international economic, political and human rights development. It is not uncommon to see discussions of African development rising alongside stories of conflict and humanitarian crisis. As a major international academic institution, the Josef Korbel School of International Studies is committed to internships, transnational involvement, and rational research-based solutions for key African issues. In concert, African Initiatives, a research/community/partnership organization based within Korbel, in connection with Students for Africa, is developing and maintaining issue-oriented opportunities for our faculty and students. South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya are but three of the countries currently engaged.

Toward that end, Korbel now offers an African Issues Concentration for those graduate students who wish to use their degree to work in African international aid, administration, humanitarian outreach, and/or development upon graduation. Participation will provide students with a comprehensive overview of current issues engaging Africa and will facilitate development of expertise spanning human rights, security, political economy, governance, and economic development.

The concentration consists of three core courses and two elective courses to facilitate specialization. Course adjustments can be made. Interdepartmental cooperation allows students a broad range of elective choices. In addition, students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular Africa-related activities, such as Students for Africa, as well as complete an Africa-related internship in Denver (e.g., with an NGO) or another location (e.g., with an IGO). Please see the north wall rack in the CyberCafé for relevant hand-outs. The concentration also connects students with Africanist professors at Korbel with whom students – if the professor is available – can partner in the pursuit of an SRP, masters thesis, or independent research project. The Office of Career Development at Korbel is available and prepared to assist students in locating internships as well as post-graduation employment opportunities.

Students who take advantage of the African Issues Concentration in conjunction with their M.A. degree will graduate with a combination of theoretical and practical knowledge that will position them well to contribute to the discussion and development (or change) surrounding Africa.

Requirements and Options: Students will be asked to consider coursework comprised of three core courses that will introduce them to several of the following major African issue areas:

- Human Rights
- Security
- Political Economy
- Government, Democratization and Politics
- Community Development
Core Courses: Three existing courses at Korbel are suitable for the concentration:
INTS 4625   East African Development and Human Rights
INTS 4627   African Security
INTS 4427   Political Economy of African Development

In addition, potential core courses can include:
- Agricultural development, rural poverty and food security in Africa
- Energy policy, extractive industries and climate change in Africa
- Public health and the political economy of disease in Africa
- (Student's independent research on an African-specific topic)

Potential, Existing Electives: In addition, students will be asked to consider two elective courses that have a partial African focus, within Korbel and/or related departments
INTS 4642   Environmental Security (Korbel – 5 credits)
INTS 4539   Food Security in the World (Korbel – 5 credits)
INTS 4653   Political Economy of the Resource Curse (Korbel – 5 credits)
INTS 4966   Applied Field Methods (Korbel - 5 credits)
INTS 4342   International Project Management (Korbel - 5 credits)
INTS 4333   International Project Analysis (Korbel - 5 credits)
INTS 4633   International Project Evaluation (Korbel - 5 credits)
SOWK 4758   Social Work in Kenya (Social Work - 3 credits)
ANTH 3350   Africa: Peoples and Cultures (Anthropology - 4 credits)

Previously offered courses at Korbel that could serve as cores or electives, should they be offered again:
INTS 4420   Contemporary African Politics (5 credits)
INTS 4719   Humanitarian Intervention in Africa and Human Rights (5 credits)
INTS 4720   Capital Markets in Africa (5 credits)
INTS 4912   African Conflicts: Causes and Conflicts (5 credits)

Potential elective courses to be offered at Korbel and other DU departments, on occasion:
Korbel:
- Private Equity and Entrepreneurship in Africa
- Rising China and Africa
- Africa in World Politics
- Peace Operations in Fragile States
- Aid, Violence and Politics in Africa
- Food Security in Africa
- Civil Wars and International Interventions in Africa

Other Departments:
- The Modern State and the Colonial Subject (Political Science)
- Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Africa (Anthropology)
- Christianity, Identity and Civil Society in Africa (Iliff School of Theology)
- Race, Poverty and Justice (Iliff School of Theology)