

The University of Western Ontario
Department of French Studies

French 3140B/AH 3390G
Winter-Spring 2019
Rwanda: Culture, Society and Reconstruction

Instructor:

Office

Office hours:

Monday 2:30 pm – 4:30pm

Attendance and Participation:

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Written Assignments:

READINGS:

Monday of	Topic	Homework
January 7	Introduction to the course	
January 14	(Documentary)	
January 21	Service-learning for Health Stevens, Cheryl A. Introduction Jacoby, Barbara et al. 14- Civic Renewal Ch.	Readings Oral Presentations
January 28	as an African Philosophical Concept	
February 4	Gender legislation in Rwanda Genocides and language	Readings and Oral Presentation
February 11	Pre-departure orientation (1)	
February 18-22	<i>Reading Week</i>	
February 25	Social reconstruction / transitional justice Quinn, Joanna. Social Reconstruction in Uganda Semujanga, Josias. Ch. 6: And the Humanitarian Watched	Readings and Oral Presentation
March 4	Research Project: as an African Philosophical Concept	Readings
March 11	A Thousand Hills Kinzer, Stephen. Ch. 15: Breathless with Fear	Readings and Oral Presentation

March 18	Research Project: The Deardorff Theoretical Model; The Bennett Model	
March 25	Reconstruction: Post-Genocide Mamdani, Mahmood. Conclusion: Political Reform After Genocide	Readings and Oral Presentation
April 1	Final Project	

April 8

Pre

Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning.

Origins of Rwandan Genocide.

A Thousand Hills.

*When Victims Become Killers : Colonialism, nativism, and the
genocide in Rwanda.*

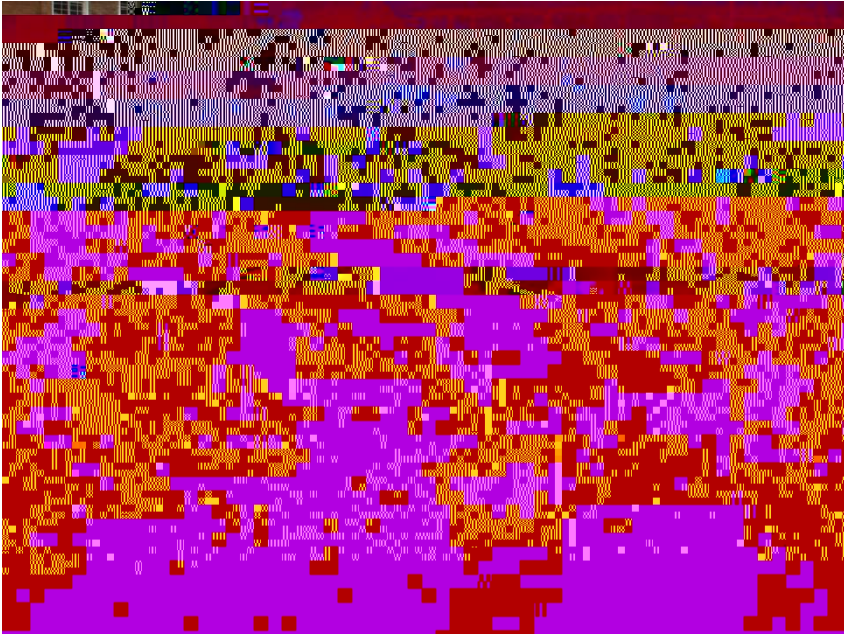
The Rwanda Crisis : History of a Genocide.

Land of a Thousand Hills.

Testimonials and Photos Class of 2010

"Of everything we saw between the Belgium memorial, the New Kigali and just the beautiful scenery of green hills, the [Genocide] Memorial for me was the most eye-opening. I had a lump in my throat the entire time and I nearly lost it in the final room, where survivors from the genocide were talking about their parents that they lost and how much they missed them...While this experience was very sad, it also made me very curious as I couldn't understand how Rwandans could extend the kind of forgiveness they had to their fellow neighbours who took away their families." -Sheila Cassidy

"Gisimba presented an entirely different learning opportunity, and I believe I learned a lot and grew immensely as a result of spending time helping at the orphanage. The experience of assisting in the classroom allowed me to explore my ability to be patient and flexible, as the 'baby class' was a constantly changing and hectic enviro



"From the very beginning, with the warm welcomes we received till the very end and the heartfelt urges to return, the relationships I made with the people I met there taught me more than I could learn in a lifetime of school...By experiencing struggles and problems so unlike those that we face in Canada, our eyes can be opened to new ideas and alternative solutions."
Meagan Rust



"As much as this wonderful trip was an experiential learning trip about the culture, society, and reconstruction of Rwanda, it also became a trip about forming lifelong friendships with fellow Western students, beyond the classroom. Every part of this trip was unexpected, and yet produced memories that changed the manner in which I view the world and people around me."
- Diane Tisdall

Testimonials and Photos Class of 2011



"I approached this experience with an open-mind, ready for the best experience of my life. In that sense, my expectations were met a million times over. What I was no prepared for, however, was the profound impact that occurred when my learning moved from the classroom to the real world... I learned more about myself in those short weeks than I ever have in my life, and I received more from the children in the school

and the orphanage in one day that I could ever hope to give them in one week. Their courage, hope, and joy are an inspiration, and the impact that they made on my life and me is something that I could never repay, and I will never forge that." Elizabeth Dupuis

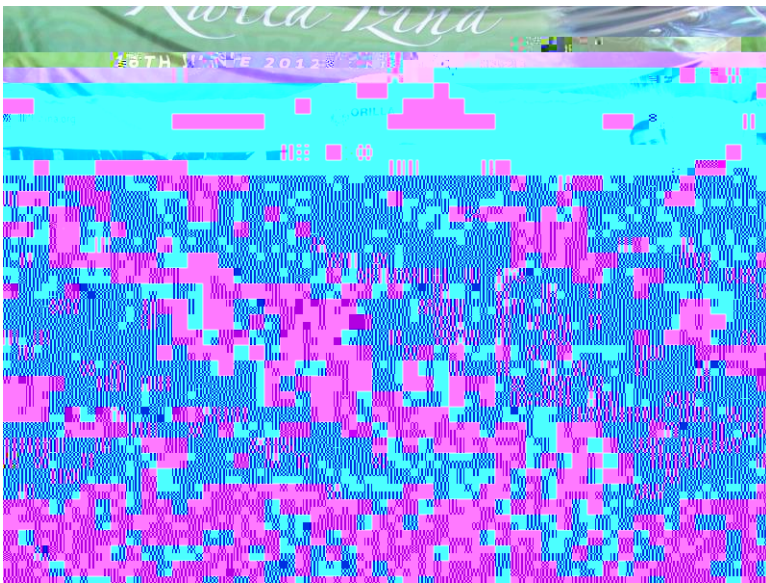


"I have struggled to express in words throughout this trip how much this experience had meant to me, and now that it is almost complete it is even more difficult. The people of Rwanda have taught me and given me more that I could ever possibly return. This country and the people I have been so blessed to spend time with will always hold a special place in my heart. A part of me will stay in Rwanda and it will keep me coming back I'm sure". Simran Cahal

Testimonials and Photos Class of 2012



"The opportunity to work alongside passionate teachers and remarkable students at the Gisimba Memorial Centre Nursery School has been inspiring. The Gisimba placement has revealed to us all new experiences, new perspectives and new worlds that have been testaments to the resiliency and virtuousness of the human condition, broadened our horizons to at once penetrate and encompass intercultural differences and have fundamentally given us the extraordinary opportunity to learn and make new friends." – Melody Ren



The team at the annual Gorilla Naming Ceremony in North Rwanda

"Watching the students discover Kigali and the Rwandan culture over the course of the five weeks was an absolute gift. Without exception, every student put his or her heart and soul into the work. Seeing them work, grow and develop as they learned was the very definition of 'reciprocity' in Service-Learning. Each student has gone above and beyond what was expected of them, and I am very proud of the entire group. They undoubtedly had an impact on the lives of the people we worked alongside of, however the impact that was made on them is something that will last a lifetime as it will with me too. On a far away land, they each and all made Western and Canada shine with respect, integrity and leadership." – Tara Dupuis (Assistant)

Testimonials from Class of 2013

"Through building connections with people from a different culture, I was able to explore my attitudes, grow in knowledge, and develop more intercultural skills. It was an eye-opening experience that was beyond anything I could ever have imagined. As I saw different ways of life in another part of the world, I was challenged to experience my emotions in new ways and discover parts of myself that I did not know before. Though challenging, it was the happiest, most humbling, and most fulfilling time of my life. I would not trade it for anything in this world! I cannot thank Rwanda and its people enough for giving me new life by sharing their lives. This experience has forever changed me, and I will cherish it always! I hope to be an ambassador of these lessons by emulating what I have learned from GMC and Rwanda in my life"

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The 2014 UWO Team On their way to Lake Kivu

This experiential learning trip was the most incredible experience. I was able to witness first-hand the vitality and strength of a people who had so recently been overwhelmed with hurt and violence. Within those five short weeks in Rwanda, I encountered more inspirational men and women than I had in my entire life. Being able to work with the Rwandan people for a brighter future has truly allowed my intercultural competence to grow. This experience has eliminated any preconceived notions I had associated with Rwanda because of its past and has therefore allowed me to become a better global citizen. I have been to twenty countries and five continents in my life and have yet to experience a place so filled with beauty, strength, perseverance and kindness as Rwanda. I am counting down the days until I will return.

Rachel Goldstein

I have read through the reflections and am left yet again in awe of what you expose our students to during their time in Rwanda. Thank you for your commitment to this program. It is clearly a life altering experience for our students

Janice M. 385 Tmc.mg424 T 0 1 4