



RIFT VALLEY INSTITUTE ♦ 2010 ♦ THE GREAT LAKES COURSE

INTRODUCTION

The first Great Lakes Field Course will take place 17-23 July 2010 in Bujumbura, Burundi. The course is a graduate-level, residential programme designed for aid workers, peacekeepers, researchers and diplomats – those already living and working in the region and those about to start.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The course is taught by a team of leading regional and international specialists, including academics, civil society activists and a documentary film-maker. It offers an intensive one-week introduction to the history and political economy of Rwanda, Burundi and the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, examining the historical and cultural features of this diverse region and providing a detailed analytical account of current political challenges. The residential nature of the Course means that there will be extensive opportunities for informal exchange between participants and teaching staff. The languages of instruction and discussion will be French and English. Interpretation services will be available.

LOCATION

Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, situated on the north-eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, is one of Africa's most elegant cities. Details of accommodation and course venue will be available shortly.

COST

The cost of the course is US \$3,900, comprising tuition, local transport, special events, course literature and seven nights full board and accommodation in Bujumbura.

FLIGHTS AND VISAS

Flights to Bujumbura are not included in the course fee. Kenya Airways, Ethiopian Airlines and Brussels Airlines operate regular commercial flights to Bujumbura. For visa information see <http://bi.embassyinformation.com/>

TIMETABLE

Course participants arrive in Bujumbura on Saturday 17 July. Classes start on Monday 19 and run through to Friday 23 July. The course takes the form of lectures, critical commentaries, seminars, panel debates and class discussions throughout the day. The extra-curricular programme will begin on Sunday 18 and includes visits to sites of historical and cultural interest, with discussions and video documentaries in the evenings.

SYLLABUS

Day 1 Introduction to the Great Lakes

Historical and geographical overviews of Burundi, Rwanda and the Kivus. Ethnicity, land tenure, citizenship and conflict in the region.

Day 2 The Logic of Violence in the Great Lakes

Debates over the causes and consequences of violence. The Rwandan civil war and genocide, ethnic cleansing in Burundi, and large-scale killing in Congo. Refugee crises.

Day 3 Society, Media and Conflict

A comparison of constitutional approaches to citizenship. Civil liberties in conflict and post-conflict settings. Gender. Music, movies and Congolese politics.

Day 4 The Political Economy of the Great Lakes

Natural resources, migrant labour and informal economies. Environmental protection and livelihoods. Rebel groups and commercial networks: the FDLR, the CNDP, the LRA and the Mai Mai militias. International attempts to deal with armed actors.

Day 5 Peacemaking and the Future of the Region

The geopolitics of conflict in the region. The Inter-Congolese Dialogue. 'Top down' versus 'Bottom up' approaches to conflict resolution and development. The future of democracy in Burundi and Rwanda. Donor policy.

STAFF

Philip Winter OBE Course Director
Rift Valley Institute; lately Senior Advisor in MONUC; formerly Chief of Staff for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue

Jason Stearns Director of Studies
Yale University; formerly Coordinator of the UN Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo

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Filip Reyntjens
University of Antwerp; author of *The Great African War: Congo and Regional Geopolitics*

Catharine Newbury
Smith College; author of *The Cohesion of Oppression: Clientship and Ethnicity in Rwanda, 1860 – 1960*

David Newbury
Smith College; author of *The Land Beyond the Mists*

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International Crisis Group, Bujumbura

Bob White
University of Montreal; author of *Rumba Rules: The Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire*

CONTACTS AND BOOKING

For further information and application forms please write to greatlakes.course@riftvalley.net Application deadline is **7 May 2010**. For information about RVI courses visit <http://www.riftvalley.net/courses/> Course arrangements are subject to change.

THE RIFT VALLEY INSTITUTE (RVI)

The Rift Valley Institute (<http://www.riftvalley.net/>) is a non-profit research and educational organization working in Sudan, the Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Great Lakes.