This Winter Session study abroad course will travel to Northern Tanzania for a two-week, intensive experiential learning program to explore principles of sustainable development and resource management within remote and extreme physical environments. Following the direction of the UN Sustainable Development goals, the theoretical focus will explore the interconnectedness of an individual to their physical environment and how this delicate balance contributes to sensibilities of health, security, and well-being at the scale of the individual as well as the community. This expedition-style program will begin in Arusha, followed by a short flight to Mwanza where we will pack into a convoy of Jeeps to traverse from Mwanza, to Shinyanga, Musoma, Tarime, Mugumu, and lastly safaris at the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater (both UNESCO World Heritage Sites). At each locale, our team will engage with NGOs, vocational training centers, colleges/universities, naturalist guides, and a Maasai tribe who live and work within these vulnerable environments. Collectively, participants will experience a wide variety of interpretive programming regarding the history, ecology, culture, infrastructure, as well as politics of preservation versus development of the African wilderness. Utilizing photography, mapping, sketching, data recording, and interviewing - students will complete projects through the framework of storytelling that reveal how physical environments and infrastructure related to shelter, food, energy, water, and sanitation directly affect the quality of life experienced by vulnerable populations within rural communities. The course will be supported by a diverse team of faculty and consultants providing interdisciplinary expertise in the areas of architecture, planning, ecology, sustainability, and community psychology. The course will feature engagement with the ELN Project Portal, allowing students to complete Global Collaboration or Sustainability digital badges in conjunction with final storytelling projects.

Note: If interested in remaining in-country to hike Mount Kilimanjaro, Elev. 19,341 ft. please contact Christopher Romano, Architecture.