



Rift Valley Institute

# HORN OF AFRICA

## *Field Course 2023*

**JULY**  
**23 -28**



*Location*  
**KENYA**

**RVI field courses - an intensive learning experience**

*An innovative, residential, dawn-to-dusk programme of seminars, lectures, group discussions and special events examines key environmental, political and cultural features of the Horn of Africa, contextualizing contemporary problems.*

# COURSE

## Theme & Outline

### New Stresses, Enduring Resilience?

### Ecology, Identity, and Governance in the Horn of Africa

**The past few years have been an extraordinary stress test for the Horn of Africa.** Fragile political settlements across the region have been strained to the breaking point by civil war, severe drought, COVID, ethnic and religious tensions, and escalating geopolitical conflicts from afar. The resilience of households, communities, and states has been tested in every way. The 2023 RVI Horn of Africa course, covering Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Somaliland, and Djibouti, brings together leading experts to help course participants examine the sources of crises in the region and the state of societal resilience. In this intensive dawn to dusk five-day residential course in Kenya, special attention is accorded to the impact of climate change on production and society, old and new expressions of identity politics, and enduring challenges of governance across the region.

#### DAY 1

##### *Identity, Hierarchy, and Inclusion in the Horn*

- Ethnic identities and their uses
- Cross-cutting identities – gender, generation, “caste”
- Religious identities
- Identity, rights, and land
- Social mobility and class

#### DAY 2

##### *Political History and Contemporary Challenges*

- Key historical themes and trends up to 1960
- Independence, political turbulence, and the quest for development, 1960-1991
- Ethiopia and Eritrea since 1991
- Somalia and Somaliland since 1991
- Somaliland, Puntland and the Las Anod crisis

#### DAY 3

##### *Contemporary Governance Challenges*

- Ethiopia
- Eritrea
- Somalia
- Federalism and devolution

#### DAY 4

##### *Environmental and Demographic Trends*

- Regional demographic trends and urbanization
- Hydropolitics
- Climate change and social response
- Migration, IDPs, and refugees
- Food insecurity and humanitarian crisis

#### DAY 5

##### *Economic and Security Trends*

- Regional economy and the EAC
- Diaspora and remittances
- External actors
- Jihadism and counterinsurgency operations
- Private sector trends

### SIGN UP

Apply for the 2023 Horn of Africa course [here](#). The fee for the course is USD 4,500. This covers tuition, fees, six nights' full board and accommodation, local transport and advance course literature. Flights and visas are not included.

# COURSE

## *Teachers & Testimonials*

### DIRECTORS OF STUDY



**Michael Woldemariam**  
Associate Professor  
University of Maryland

Michael Woldemariam's teaching and research interests are in African security studies, with a particular focus on armed conflict in the Horn of Africa. He has also consulted with a number of international organizations. His works have been published in a wide-range of peer-reviewed journals as well as popular essay outlets. His first book, *Insurgent Fragmentation in the Horn of Africa: Rebellion and Its Discontents*, was published with Cambridge University Press in 2018.



**Ken Menkhaus**  
Professor of Political Science  
Davidson College

Ken Menkhaus specializes in Somalia and the Horn of Africa, and has published in the fields of development, conflict analysis, humanitarian response, peace operations, peacebuilding, state-building, and violent extremism. A leading expert, his work involves both academic research and policy work with the US government, the United Nations, the World Bank, and non-government organizations.

### KEY TEACHING TEAM

**Fardowsa Ahmed Gambol** | Researcher and Grant Officer at Puntland Development and Research Center

**Biruk Terrefe** | PhD Candidate, University of Oxford

**James Swan** | Former UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia

**Lealem Mersha** | Researcher, Addis Ababa

**Dereje Feyissa Dori** | Adjunct Associate Professor, Addis Ababa University and Coordinator of the Migration for Development and Equality research hub for the Ethiopia-South Africa corridor

**Abdusalam Hadliyah Omer** | Presidential Special Envoy for EAC; Former Minister of Foreign Affairs & Investment Promotion of the Federal Republic of Somalia

**Abdi Aynte** | Managing Director, Laasfort Consulting Group, Former Minister of Planning of Somalia  
Former senior UN official, Former journalist at BBC, VOA & Al Jazeera

### WHAT ALUMNI SAY

'My expectations have been largely met! I appreciated the intense review of the information, politics to history, including the extensive reading and cultural events.' **Yannick Hingorani, Canadian High Commission, Horn of Africa 2018.**

'As someone who knew very little about the wider region, I thought the design was spot on – starting with the overviews and then getting into the detail...I wish I'd done the course last year. I will definitely recommend it to friends and colleagues.' **Kate Ferry, Adam Smith International, Horn of Africa Course 2015.**

'I dare say I have done nothing comparable in so comprehensive a package.' **Bob Snyder, Canadian International Development Agency, Horn of Africa Course 2013.**