Humanitarian Design & Appropriate Technologies in Tanzania

CRN 10000 / 10001 – Tuesday / Thursday 10:00-11:20am in 206 Lawrence Hall (3 credits)

Instructor: Prof. Michael Zaretsky, zaretsky@uoregon.edu

“If we are going to interfere in the lives of others, a little due diligence is a minimum requirement.”

— From the “The White Savior Industrial Complex”, by Teju Cole (the Atlantic, 2012/03)

This course will investigate the fields of Humanitarian Design and Appropriate Technology and prepare students to identify how their interests and education align with humanitarian design work. Students will be introduced to multiple perspectives on post-colonial theory, humanitarianism, international aid, non-profits, public interest design, and appropriate technology. Independent student research will explore non-profits working in the Global South to identify varying approaches to international community engagement. Students will be introduced to Village Life Outreach Project (www.villagelifeoutreach.org), a non-profit organization doing work in impoverished communities in rural Tanzania. We will explore how fields such as landscape architecture, architecture, public policy, planning, design, art, education and more are all critical in the development of effective and inspiring humanitarian design projects. Together, we will explore the social and cultural issues inherent in the field of humanitarian design and work collaboratively to explore projects that could have a positive impact on communities in need. The course is required for students intending to travel to Tanzania in June 2022 with Professor Zaretsky.

All students in the College of Design are eligible, though they need to be 3rd year undergrad or above or a graduate student.