Course: IAFS 4500-004 (International Affairs Senior Seminar)  
Theme: Challenges of Contemporary Africa  
Time: Tuesdays from 5:30pm to 8:00  
Place: Ketchum 234  
Instructor: Dr. Andy DeRoche  
Phone: 303-678-3825 (Front Range office)  
Email: andy.deroche@frontrange.edu  
Office Hours: Thursdays 5:30pm-6:00, University Club

COURSE OBJECTIVES  
Through reading, discussion, videos, research, presentations, and writing students will learn a lot about key events and issues in contemporary Africa. Students will improve valuable skills such as analysis, critical thinking, and communication. At the end of the semester students will be better prepared for graduate school or a wide variety of careers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS  
This will be a relatively demanding course. Students will complete a scholarly research paper of approximately 10 pages on the topic of their choice, and will briefly describe this project to their colleagues in class. One other medium-length paper is required: a comparative book review essay about two of the assigned texts. Each student also will be part of a team which will present one of the weekly books and facilitate a discussion.

OPTIONAL WORK  
In addition to an essay on two of the books and a group presentation on a third, which are required in order to pass the course, you may write short reaction papers (1-2 pages) about five of the remaining six books. Each will potentially be worth 2 points. These optional essays are due the day the particular book is being discussed. For example, if you write a paper on Carter’s Power Lines it is due on 1/27.

READING  
Yes you will be expected to read at least part of a lot of books for this course! We will be discussing 9 books in class. We will also discuss three of my articles, a short one which will be handed out in class and two longer ones that are on e-reserve.

ARTICLES  
BOOKS


Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families: Stories from Rwanda* (NY: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998).


ATTENDANCE
In order to get the most out of this course you must attend regularly. You will be allowed one free absence, but any more than that may lower your final grade by as much as one letter.

GRADES
Your grade will depend on two components: class participation and written work. Class participation will be required but not directly graded. If you fail to participate in a group presentation or do not discuss your research with me and the class, your final grade will be lowered one letter. There are two required written assignments in the traditional sense: a book review (40%), and a research paper (50%). Late papers without extensions will be penalized. The other 10%, if you want to earn it, will come from 5 short reaction papers (1-2 pages) about five of the six books you don’t cover in your group presentation or comparative essay.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS
1/13 Intros/Syllabus/Teams
1/20 US Relations with Zambia and Zimbabwe: DeRoche articles
1/27 Peace Corps: Carter 2/3 HIV/AIDS: Behrman
2/10 Rwanda: Gourevitch 2/17 South Africa and the TRC: Tutu
2/24 Eritrea and Ethiopia: Wrong 3/3 Conflict Diamonds: Campbell
3/10 Child Soldiers: Beah
3/17 Equatorial Guinea and mercenaries: Roberts Book Reviews Due 3/17
3/24 Spring Break 3/31 Green Belt Movement: Maathai
4/7 and 4/14 Individual Consultations (at Burnt Toast) and Research
4/21 Presentations Research Papers Due
4/28 Presentations Last day any papers accepted
5/5 7:30pm Last Presentations and Class Dinner
TEAM BOOK PRESENTATIONS
Every student will be assigned to a team. Each team will work together to present one of the course books to the rest of the class and facilitate a discussion. The session should focus on African “challenges” featured in the reading. Other possible aspects to discuss include: author’s bias, main points, interesting characters, and key events. You will have up to 60 minutes to use as you see fit (for example you might find a guest speaker or film clip to spice up your presentation). The first team will kick things off by presenting the Carter book on 1/27.

INSTRUCTOR
Professor Andy DeRoche is a historian who specializes in racial issues and US/Africa relations. He teaches history and ethnic studies full-time at Front Range Community College. In addition, he is an adjunct instructor of international affairs at CU. His first book examines American policy toward Zimbabwe, and his second is a biography of Andrew Young. He is currently writing about Zambia, where he spent 2005 researching, thanks to a Fulbright grant. His wife Heather grew up in Lusaka and worked as a journalist in Livingstone. Their daughter Ellen was born in Boulder in 2004 – a positive example of American/Zambian relations!

(Ellen DeRoche at Denver Zoo)

MY OPINION
This is my 20th year of teaching, and I have enjoyed every course. The seminar on recent Africa, however, is always my favorite. I look forward to learning a lot from you.