Natural Resources and War in Africa
International Political Economy of Resources
Liberal Arts and International Studies
The Colorado School of Mines
Spring Semester 2010 – Thursdays 9:30 – 12:15 p.m.
Professor John R. Heilbrunn
Office Hours: Tues, 12:30-2:30, Wed, 10-2:00, or by appointment

This course explores the relationship between natural resources and war in Africa. The course is intended to provide a basic understanding about the role abundant natural resources plays in wars in Africa.

Please read this syllabus carefully.

Readings in this course are relatively heavy; I encourage you to work in teams, concentrate on topics, and use the readings for specific interests you may have. Take notes that include page numbers so that you can cite the readings you find most relevant.

For undergraduate students:

Participation 20%: Students will present the readings for each week. You must come to class prepared. This seminar will not work unless you do your part. Some of the readings are difficult to read and interpret. Bring questions. Your participation will be evaluated not just on the quantity of your presentations but also on the quality of your contributions to class discussions.

Mid-term Exam 30%: You will take an in-class mid-term on the readings. The midterm will be essay form with short-answers and a lengthy essay.

Take Home Final 50%: You will draft a comprehensive take home final. On this final, you must demonstrate that you have completed all the readings. Your final needs to use correct citation forms to show from where among the readings you take your ideas and to learn how to prepare professional quality reports. The take home final is due May 4, 2010, 9:30 a.m. in my office. Late papers will not be accepted.

For graduate students:

Participation 20%: Students will present the readings for each week. You must come to class prepared. This seminar will not work unless you do your part. Some of the readings are difficult to read and interpret. Bring questions. Your participation will be evaluated not just on the quantity of your presentations but also on the quality of your contributions to class discussions.

Term paper 80%: Students will prepare term papers of no more than 7,500 words. Topics are due no later than the beginning of class March 4. Each graduate student must submit a rough draft no later than the beginning of class April 15 (40% of final grade). Final papers are due the beginning of class April 29 (40% of final grade). Late papers will not be accepted.
Required texts: Order books from either the publisher or through Amazon:
http://www.amazon.com - take care that you receive the books in time to read them by
the assigned date. Excuses that “Barnes and Noble” or some other clearing house did not
send the book in time are unacceptable. So order them immediately.

Apart*,


http://www.riener.com/title/Africa_Unity_Sovereignty_and_Sorrow

4. Gberie, Lansana. *A Dirty War in West Africa: The RUF and the Destruction of Sierra
War*,
http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=22778

http://us.macmillan.com/tecongowsars

Readings with (G) are required for graduate students. They are optional for students in
the 400 level course.

* Readings available electronically in pdf format.
Readings and topics for discussion

1. **January 14, 2010:** Introduction: Africa – colonialism, natural resources, inequalities, and war.
   
   *Readings:*
   

2. **January 21, 2010:** Wars and development
   
   *Readings:*
   

3. **January 28, 2010:** No Class – Failed states and war in Africa
   
   *Readings:* Get ahead on the readings and presentations.

4. **February 4, 2010:** What is Africa and what is the state in Africa?
   
   *Readings:*
   

5. **February 11, 2010:** What is the sorrow about the absence of sovereignty?
   
   *Readings:*
   

6. **February 18, 2010:** What are the economic causes?
   
   *Readings:*
   
7. **February 25, 2010:** What are other causes?

*Readings:*

- Bates, *When Things Fell Apart*, 75-end

8. **March 4, 2010:** How do institutions determine democracy and war?

*Readings:*


9. **March 11, 2010:** Institutions, war and political change

*Readings:*


10. **March 25, 2010:** Diamonds and Dirty War – Sierra Leone

*Readings:*

- Gberie, *Dirty War*, 1-117.

11. **April 1, 2010:** Regional conflicts and dirty war

*Readings:*


12. **April 8, 2010:** Regional war in Congo – the scramble for it all

*Readings:*


13. **April 15, 2010:** Can the world control violence that is out of control?

*Readings:*

14. **April 22, 2010**: Oil and civil war – Chad

*Readings:*

- Ian Gary and Nikki Reisch, *Chad’s Oil: Miracle or Mirage? Followign the Money in Africa’s Newest Petrostate* (Baltimore: Catholic Relief Services, 2005).
- (G) Hans Eriksson and Björn Hagströmer, “Chad – Towards Democratisation or Petro-Dictatorship?” Discussion paper 29 (Uppsala Sweden: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, 2005).

15. **April 29, 2010**: Oil and civil conflict – the Niger Delta

*Readings:*


16. **May 4, 2010**: TAKE HOME FINAL DUE