A. Basic Description of the Program
The course will educate IU journalism students about the culture of East Africa, the HIV/AIDS epidemic with particular emphasis on the impact in Eldoret, Kenya, and the role and practice of health reporting in Kenya, Uganda and the United States. The proposed course will take place during the first eight-week summer session of 2014 and will include a 30-day trip to Kenya. The goal is to improve students’ reporting skills by requiring each to research the topic of HIV in Africa and then produce a series of feature reports on the work of the AMPATH project in Eldoret, Kenya using text, still photos, audio and video produced into multimedia packages presented on the School of Journalism’s Web site and other publication outlets.

The mission is to educate IU journalism students about the culture of East Africa, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly in East Africa, and the role and practice of health reporting about the epidemic to audiences in Africa and the United States.

The course will take place during the first eight-week summer session and will meet daily. The overseas portion of the class will take place from May 23 to June 22. The course will conclude on July 3. There will be 10-12 students, the professor, and a staff or faculty assistant.

B. Rationale
This course is one of the School of Journalism’s Experiences Programs—the only one with travel to Africa. We believe international travel complements the classroom-based learning in a way no other experience could. Reporting skills can be obtained only through actual practice. Reporting on an issue in a developing context can only be done in the developing world and can only be done effectively with the help of a local collaborator. A key component of this course is that each IU student will be paired with a Kenyan student studying communication at Moi University in Eldoret. The two will act as a reporting team. The Kenyan will know the local language, customs and geography. The IU student will have strong journalism reporting skills and state-of-the-art equipment.

This team approach accomplishes two basic needs. One, IU students will learn cooperation and teamwork in an international context. Cultural understanding will be greatly enhanced by the lesson of close collaboration. Two, IU student safety will be much enhanced by the continuous presence of a local-language speaker with knowledge of local customs and practices. All IU and MU students will meet daily at the Moi
University Teaching and Referral Hospital for a classroom session lead by an IU and MU professor. This session plus group social outings will create a bond between all 24 students and the faculty.

The IU Medical School has a 24-year history with Moi University’s Medical School. Last year, the IU-Kenya Partnership transitioned into a 10-university consortium that serves as a model for how both health development and inter-university cooperation ought to be done. The program is now known as AMPATH, the Academic Model Providing Access To Healthcare. Kelly obtained an OVPIA Overseas Study Development Travel Grant and spent 10 days in Kenya in the summer of 2009 planning the the course in collaboration with faculty at Moi University. He conducted the course in 2010, 2011 and again in 2013. The courses were rated very highly by all student participants and were praised by AMPATH administrators, MU faculty and administrators, and journalists in Eldoret. All pledged continuing support. The IU Associate Vice President of Overseas Studies said,

“What you have done with this program is nothing short of extraordinary.... Your program is perfect proof of how much students can learn on multiple levels from being abroad for only a few weeks. They became informed about so many areas that are even difficult to enumerate in a brief list—HIV/AIDS, extreme poverty, Kenyan culture, politics and history, AMPATH and its impact on peoples’ lives, as well as the art of reporting about sensitive and complex issues.”

Because Kenya is currently under a U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory and because terrorists attacked a civilian shopping mall in Nairobi in September 2013, extraordinary attention has been paid to ensuring the safety of students while in Africa. While previous classes visited journalists in the Kenyan capital, no activities will take place in Kenya except in the Eldoret area. Eldoret is in the western part of Kenya, 200 miles from Nairobi. While in Kenya, students will stay in the IU House in Eldoret, a secure compound of eight buildings operated by IU for the housing and maintenance of its personnel in Eldoret. Access to the compound is controlled by IU-employed guards at two gates and by electric perimeter fence. The other key safety consideration is transportation. Local transportation will be exclusively by licensed taxi and only when accompanied by an assigned Moi student. Travel outside the Eldoret area will be in IU operated vehicles when available and by licensed taxi otherwise. This is the advice given to the medical students, hospital volunteers and staff who stay at the IU House and will be strictly adhered to by students in the class. Additionally, each IU student will be issued a mobile phone upon arrival and will be required to carry it at all times so that he/she can communicate with fellow students and team leaders should an emergency arise.

Because it is currently unwise to travel to Nairobi, this summer’s class will travel to Kampala, Uganda following the Eldoret segment of the course. In Kampala, students will be hosted by the African Centre for Media Excellence and will visit the leading independent newspaper’s offices. They will meet with several Ugandan journalists covering the HIV epidemic. Uganda is not under a travel advisory, but all travel will
nevertheless be by licensed tour vehicles, and lodging will be in properly secured
guesthouses and lodges. The safari will take place at the Murchison Falls National Park.

Dr. Kelly has traveled seven times to Kenya and three times to Uganda. He has visited
about a dozen East African cities. He has stayed at IU House four times and visited
Murchison Falls in 2007. His evaluation of Eldoret is that daylight travel by foot
between the IU House, the Hospital, and the downtown is as safe as in Bloomington, but
that travel after sunset is inadvisable. Daylight travel outside the downtown area of
Eldoret is also reasonably safe provided that licensed taxi is used. These impressions
are based on his own experience, the recommendations of AMPATH staff and the advice
of his many friends who work as journalists in Eldoret.

We will spend two days in Kampala, the Ugandan capital. While Nairobi is the media
center of east Africa, Kampala is a major media hub that is home to three English-
language daily newspapers and two independent English-language television stations.
While in Kampala we will visit the newsroom of the Daily Monitor and of the Nation
Television network. Both are owned by the Kenyan-based Nation Media Group. The
local host will be Peter Mwesige, Executive Director of the African Centre for Media
Excellence in Kampala and an IU Ph.D. degree holder. He is former editor of the Daily
Monitor and former head of the journalism program at Makerere University.

Students will stay at a guest house close to the center on the outskirts of the city.
Private security guards will be posted at the entrance at all times. Students will stay two
or three to a room. Meals will be taken as a group in the hotel. The area is quite safe
during daylight hours. Students will travel only in a group lead by an IU faculty or staff
member.

C. Eligibility
All students must have a 3.0 minimum GPA and be in good standing. Undergraduate
students must have completed J110, J200 and J210. Graduate students must have
completed J505 or have been exempted. This class is open to School of Journalism
students only. Students on both the Bloomington and Indianapolis campuses are
encouraged to apply.

D. Orientation Programming
The first pre-departure orientation session will be a one-hour session the first week of
April. This will allow the registered students to meet the professor and each other. We
will teleconference with the students at Moi University if possible. The session will
focus on logistical preparations like what to wear, what to pack, how to travel, and how
to prepare. We will provide them with lists and schedules so that they have plenty of
time to purchase or gather necessary items before the class meets since travel
commences just two weeks into the course. We will also provide contact information
for each of the locations where we will reside during the trip and ask that it be sent to
their parents or other contact persons.

There will be nine additional pre-departure orientation sessions since every class
meeting of the first two weeks of the session will include preparation for the Kenya
experience. Guest lecturers will include Ron Pettigrew, AMPATH Program Manager; Megan Miller, AMPATH Director of Development and Communications (media contact); Jill Stowers, Executive Director of Bloomington Hospital's Positive Link HIV testing and counseling program; Dawn Robinson, Infectious Diseases Nurse at Bloomington Hospital; and Henry Wakungu, a faculty member from the IU African Studies program originally from Kenya.

The School has compiled general orientation materials for international trips. Visas for Kenya may be obtained at the airport in Nairobi upon arrival. Ugandan visas will be obtained prior to departure. Vaccinations and recommendations for travel to Africa will be as per the 2013-2014 Orientation Guidebook for IU medical students. A copy of the Guidebook will be provided to each student.

E. Language Considerations
The CIA Fact Book lists English as one of two official languages of Kenya and the sole official language in Uganda. The Kiswahili spoken in Eldoret is known as “Swang” and there are several local languages in use also. The IU House has an approved Kiswahili instructor, Mr. Wycleff, who will provide students with an introductory lesson and arrange for additional lessons upon demand. All middle-class residents and all Moi University students speak English. IU students will rely on their MU partners to translate Kiswahili and local languages for them while they are doing their reporting research.

F. Communication from Kenya
The IU House has wireless Internet available to all residents. Students can keep in touch most easily with parents via e-mail and Skype. While in Kenya, students will send regular reports back to the School of Journalism to be posted on its Web site: http://www.journalism.indiana.edu/ and an article about the program will be published in the School of Journalism’s alumni publication Newswire. But most significantly, by the end of the course students will post their reporting to the School’s Web site http://www.journalism.indiana.edu/kenya/ (currently populated with stories from 2013). Some will publish their work in the Indiana Daily Student, and most will offer their stories to professional media outlets throughout the Midwest.

G. Support services abroad
All students and faculty travelling to Kenya will register online with the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Kampala before departure (https://step.state.gov/step/). The faculty members will keep photocopies of all passports as well as contact information and required forms in case of a lost passport or other emergency. Copies of all passports and insurance cards will also be kept by the dean’s assistant in Bloomington, who will be available around the clock to help in case of an emergency.

H. Health, Safety and Security
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/kenya.htm are reflected in the information below. IU has granted the School an exemption to its ban on overseas study travel to countries with travel warnings in place based on the special circumstance that exist between the IU and MU medical schools and the enduring record that collaboration has produced over the last two and a half decades.

The U.S. Department of State currently has a travel warning in effect for Kenya (September 27, 2013) stating that those considering travel to Kenya "should evaluate their personal security situation in light of continuing and recently heightened threats from terrorism and the high rate of violent crime in some areas. The levels of risk vary throughout the country." http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_6025.html

Terrorist attacks on the U.S. Embassy in 1998, nationwide post-election violence in 2008 and this September’s attack on a shopping mall by suspected members of the Al Shabaab terrorist organization, an Al-Qaeda affiliate, combined with high crime rates and cross-boarder conflict with Somalia have compelled the Department to maintain an advisory on the country almost continuously over the last 15 years. Eldoret is far from the Somali boarder and the major cities of Nairobi and Mombasa, but has not been spared either political or criminal violence. Dozens of people seeking refuge in a church in Eldoret were burned to death by a mob on in January 2008 following national elections. Political unrest has now all but vanished, but the State Department still retains a travel warning for visitors to Kenya in the light of the high incidence of violent crime and possible threat from terrorists.

There is no travel advisory for Uganda and while classes in the past have traveled to Nairobi to meet with journalists and visit a game park, this year the class will travel to Kampala, Uganda after the Eldoret segment. They will spend two days meeting with journalists at the African Centre for Media Excellence and visiting the Daily Monitor newspaper and the NTV television station. They will also spend two nights at the Murchison Falls National Park on safari.

Prior to departure Dr. Kelly will discuss the importance of personal safety while in Eldoret and Kampala. His experience in both cities allows him to speak directly to the real danger, and prudent responses and cautions. Guest speakers who have been to Eldoret and/or Kampala will also address the safety issue so that students are well informed before departure. Each student will receive a copy of the U.S. State Department's brochure titled “A Safe Trip Abroad,” with tips about avoiding illness and crime. The students will be encouraged to lock their valuables in the room safes at IU House and the Kampala guest house. The State Department recommends Americans keep their passports with them at all times and students will be required to use an “on body” pouch. Because students will be carrying cameras that may attract the attention of thieves, students will be equipped with nondescript bags to carry them in, advised to show them only when necessary and to heed the prudent warnings of their Kenyan partners who are far more familiar with potentially precarious situations.

The pre-departure orientation will also cover health topics, such as avoiding eating unwashed fruits and vegetables, avoiding overexposure to the sun, and making sure to get enough sleep in an attempt to avoid exhaustion and altitude-related illnesses.
[Eldoret is 7000 feet above sea level.] Additionally, the CDC recommends safeguards against insect bites and sunburn for travelers in Africa, so we will advise the students to pack sunscreen and insect repellent (including the treatment of clothing with permethrin), to sleep under netting (provided at both locations). Students are required to take a malaria prophylaxis prior to and during time in Kenya. Kelly will travel with a first aid kit including medicine for diarrhea and alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Obviously, should medical care be required in Eldoret, facilities are easily available and are able to handle most emergencies, including surgery. The State Department notes that “Medical facilities in Uganda, including Kampala, are limited and not equipped to handle most emergencies, especially those requiring surgery.” Students should carry their own supplies of prescription drugs and preventive medicines.

The CDC recommends travelers be up-to-date on all routine vaccinations. Students must visit the Travel Nurse at the IU Health Center or their own family physician upon being accepted into the course and to obtain recommended vaccinations prior to departure. Students must hold passports valid until at least December 15, 2014. The School will enroll students in a group health insurance plan that includes the State Department recommended coverage including $50,000 Medical Evacuation. The Moi T&R Hospital accepts major credit cards as payment for treatment, but Dr. Kelly will nonetheless secure a travel advance and carry enough cash to cover an emergency.

This type of preparedness is the key to safety, but knowing what to be prepared for and when to take precautions requires intimate knowledge of one’s surroundings. The key safety consideration for our students will be the pairing of IU students with Moi University students whenever they are outside the IU House compound. The MU students know the area, know the local customs, and know what is safe and what is not. To further ensure that knowledge of conditions is maintained, each IU student will be supplied with a mobile phone upon arrival and the numbers for every member of the IU group will be programmed into each phone. No one will leave the IU House without their phone and a supply of air time. Good information and good communication are the keys to safety.

I. Supplementary Activities
There will be two group social excursions outside Eldoret in Kenya. The first will take all 24 students (IU and MU) to the Kireo Valley for dinner and sightseeing. The second will take just the 12 IU students for a hike through the Kakamega forest. The trips will be arranged by Mangrove Tree Tours & Travel, an agency IU has worked with for years. They are completely reliable. The third social excursion will be two nights at the Murchison Falls National Park in Uganda. A reporter simply cannot understand Africa without some introduction to the wildlife and the relationship local people have with nature. A game park is not an ideal way to make this realization, but given safety concerns and logistics, it is our best option. The park is located 175 miles or four hours by van north of Kampala. The road to and from the park is good and the agency we will use is licensed by the Ugandan Tourism Board.

K. Student Budget
The School of Journalism will subsidize this course significantly, making the student fee just $2250 (about the cost of the flights). Students must also pay for the four credit-hour tuition and fees. We encourage students to apply for Hutton Honors College International Experiences Program grants to help cover costs. The School of Journalism will underwrite about half of the total costs of the course. Personal expenses for the previous trip to Kenya averaged around $250 per students, but should have $400 in ATM-accessible funds available.