The History of Southern Africa

History 508:320
Professor Julie Livingston
Wednesdays 9:50-12:50
Freylinghausen Room A6

Contact Information
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 (or by appointment)

Course Description
This course covers the history of the southern region of the African continent. Since this is a massive region with a rich history stretching back for millennia, we cannot possibly cover it all in a semester long course. Instead, we will focus mainly on South Africa, and on the history from the 18th through the 20th centuries, with some lectures/discussions and readings considering neighboring colonies and states. Learning about Southern Africa will introduce you to issues around slavery, European colonialism, institutionalized racism, industrialization and its implications for labor and class, political movements and forms and theories of political resistance, urbanization, and many other themes. While the purpose of this class is to learn about the history of Southern Africa in its own right – in the process, you will no doubt also be able to reflect more deeply – by developing knowledge of a comparative context – about the history of the United States. Class time will mainly be a mixture of lectures and discussions of the day’s readings. Our readings combine a range of primary and secondary sources, from traveler’s accounts to memoirs to ethnographies and sociological surveys to professional historical analyses. We will also have a few class sessions that are devoted to watching and discussing films.

Course Requirements:

Two papers: 40% (20% each)
Final Exam: 40%
Class Participation: 20%

Class participation involves showing up prepared and contributing meaningfully to the discussion. Attendance is important, but not adequate in and of itself. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence no questions asked. I may require documentation to excuse an absence, so you will need to check with me on a case-by-case basis. Unexcused absences after the initial one will be reflected in a lowering of your final grade. Those who are habitually late for class will receive a similar reduction in their grade.
This is a 300 level class, and it requires a fair amount of reading and writing. Please plan accordingly. You will read an average of 100 pages per week, with a few breaks in the schedule where we will watch and discuss films. You are expected to complete the assigned reading BEFORE class. Much of class discussion will be based on the readings. Those who are habitually unprepared for class (regardless of their attendance record) will find this fact reflected in the class participation portion of their grade. Since the final exam will be based on both the readings and the lectures, and since the lectures will cover some material not discussed in the readings, attendance is particularly important for success in the course.

Late papers will be marked down one step (i.e. an A becomes an A-) for each day they are late. Failure to hand in a paper altogether will result in a grade of zero. Papers are due at the start of class. Those handed in later in the day will be considered a day late, and thus subject to a penalty. Students may submit late papers through Sakai.

Plagiarism (theft, borrowing, or purchase of another’s words and ideas without attribution) is serious business and will not be tolerated in this class. Students caught plagiarizing will at minimum receive an F for that project without exception. Repeat or major offenders will fail the course and be forwarded to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Ignorance will not be accepted at an excuse in cases of violation. You must understand clearly what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. If you need more information you should consult The Writing Program’s excellent student-friendly explanation of plagiarism at http://wp.rutgers.edu/courses/201/plagiarism_policy/

Disability Accommodation:
Students requesting accommodation must first contact the Office of Disability Services http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html who will determine eligibility. Please bring any Letters of Accommodation to my attention.

Readings:
The following books are available for purchase at the Rutgers Bookstore


All other readings will be available through the course SAKAI site.
Class Schedule

January 22  Introduction and Lecture Southern Africa before 1600/Establishment and Growth of Dutch settlement at the Cape

January 29  Khoi in the Era of Abolition/Video on Sara Baartman

Readings:
Ross, A Concise History of South Africa pp.1-53


February 5  Slavery and Rebellion in 18th century South Africa/ The Great Trek: Afrikaners and the Frontiers


Jeff Guy, ‘Ecological factors in the rise of Shaka and the Zulu Kingdom,’ in Shula Marks and Anthony Atmore, eds, Economy and Society in Pre-Industrial South Africa, 102-119

Feb 12 The Mfecane and the Basotho Kingdom/The Xhosa Cattle Killing


Feb 19 The South African War, The Herero-German War, and the Consolidation of the Union/ Gold and Diamonds the Mineral Revolution

Ross, A Concise History of South Africa pp.54-83

February 26 No Class – Professor out of town -- **paper due to Sakai.**

Readings:

Robert Ross, *A Concise History of South Africa* pp.84-113


March 5 Rural Struggles/Urban Segregation


March 12 Indirect Rule in Bechuanaland and Forced Labor in Mozambique/The Origins of Political Resistance


March 19 no class – spring break
March 26 The Establishment and Development of Apartheid and its Organized Opposition


“Verwoerd Explains Apartheid”: Hendrik Verwoerd’s Address to the African members of the Native Representative Council, December 1950, in *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid* pp. 123-127.

“Mandela Speaks on the Need to Challenge Apartheid, 1953,” in *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid*, pp127-134.


Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom* pp.231-267

April 9 Opposing Apartheid II – Internal Divisions and Alliances/ The Soweto Uprising and Black Consciousness and the UDF – The 1970s and 1980s


“Dan Montsitsi is Tortured by the Police, 1977” *The Rise and Fall of Apartheid*.

April 16 The World Apartheid Made – double feature

MAIDS and MADAMS and Mapantsula

**Second Paper Due in Class**

April 23 The End of Apartheid


Nancy Clark and William Worger, “Growing Contradictions,” in *The Rise and Fall of Apartheid* pp. 62-110


Film – Long Night’s Journey into Day

April 30 Post-Apartheid Challenges HIV and Marikana


Marikana readings TBA.

May 8 **FINAL EXAM 8-11 am**