

Fall 2011 HIST 360 (001): History of South Africa

Dr. Benedict Carton, Associate Professor, Tues-Thurs 12:00-1:15 PM, Rob B224
Office Hours: Rob B355B, Tues/Thurs 10:30-11:30 AM.

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Modern South Africa is struggling to overcome centuries of turmoil sparked, in part, by slavery, colonialism, rapid industrialization, and legalized segregation. In this course we explore a range of pivotal processes (both local and global), from the first encounters between Dutch sailors and Khoer pastoralists along the Cape coast to the hinterland expansions of white and black political powers. We also trace the impact of Christianity on African societies and popular movements that challenged European rule. Our aim is to understand the interplay between conquest, resistance, and accommodation. More detailed descriptions of weekly themes appear in the "2011 Fall Schedule" below.

Historians use different frameworks of interpretation. Some scholars view South Africa's past through the lens of gender relations; others focus on the dramatic effects of environmental calamities and millenarianism as well as racial and class dynamics. Over the past two decades historians have concentrated on ethnic (rather than "tribal") nationalisms, which accelerated the demise of apartheid and advent democracy. A principal aim of this class is for you to engage in debates, using primary materials, articles, and books to construct your own arguments. Throughout the semester, you will be encouraged to consider how the issues we study in this course shaped global societies.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

- 1. Please do NOT arrive late to class.**
- 2. Please turn OFF cell phones and all hand-held communication devices in class.**
- 3. **You are not allowed to surf the web and write emails during class.****
- 4. Please do NOT eat or drink in class.**
- 5. When emailing your Professor, include the subject heading, "South Africa Class"**

READINGS

The required readings include works of historical analysis and literature. Some readings will be sent to you by GMU email in jpg or pdf files (i.e., primary sources and journal articles); other sources will need to be downloaded from a website. You will also view documentary films on South Africa. The following **required texts** can be purchased from the GMU bookstore: 1. Aran Mackinnon, *The Making of South Africa*; 2. Mark Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy*; 3. Peter Abrahams, *Mine Boy*. **You are required to complete the assigned readings before lecture and discussion.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the course include an in-class written analysis of a primary source (15%); midterm short-answer/essay exam (20%); another short-answer exam (20%); final in-class essay exam (30%); and class participation (15%). **Please note that if you are absent for more than four classes during the entire semester, your overall course grade will drop. If you stop attending class near the mid-semester mark, you will fail the course. Passing HIST 360 requires solid effort, hard work and the prioritization of your educational goals.**

GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

This course develops an understanding of global processes and their impact on societies in Africa and other continents, demonstrating the interconnectedness and diversity of an increasingly global world. During our class discussions, you will be encouraged to identify, evaluate and cite scholarship that enhances your awareness of global issues and individual responsibilities within global societies. For further information on how “global understanding” fits within the “triple pillars” of University General Education (Foundation, Core, and Synthesis Requirements), please see <http://provost.gmu.edu/gened/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

GMU is an Honor Code university. Please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? When you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on any aspect of someone else’s work, you will give full credit in the proper (academically accepted) form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and open debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of our class will be conducted with civility and respect for different ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Crucial resources for HIST 360 will be sent through the university server to your GMU email accounts. Thus, students must use their Mason accounts—either the existing “MEMO” system or the new “MASONLIVE”—to receive important information, including key messages and required resources related to this class. Please see <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

OTHER IMPORTANT CAMPUS RESOURCES

WRITING CENTER: Rob A114; (703) 993-1200; <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES: (703) 993-2380.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for GMU policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Exam and Essay Themes: Short-answer and essay questions will explore the impact of European contacts on African societies; the rise of industrialization; racial ideologies and social inequalities; and the nationalist forces that influenced liberation movements.

Writing Standards: A good essay is concise, clear, and documented; it must answer the question posed, present an argument, and integrate relevant details from assigned readings. Muddled prose and poor grammar will reduce your grade.

Exam Rules and Deadlines: In accordance with university regulations, professors in the Department of History and Art History re-schedule exams after receiving documentation of a medical emergency or family emergency; **often this documentation must be verified by the Dean of Student Life.** ****Work-related and personal/family obligations (business trips, personal holidays, graduation ceremonies, etc.) are not adequate excuses for re-scheduling an exam or obtaining any kind of extension.****

TEACHING AND LEARNING

I will not re-teach a missed class via email or in an office conference. Nor will I customize this course to fit a student's work or personal schedule. These two statements are in accordance with pedagogical goals of George Mason University and your professor's social contract with his students.

To be considered for a good grade, you **must** receive solid grades and participate to the best of your ability in class discussions. **The due dates for the short-answer and essay exams appear below in the "2011 Fall Semester Schedule."**

Please note that **CLASS PARTICIPATION (15% of your overall mark)** is a crucial component of this course. If you have poor class participation—**due largely to absences, i.e., non-presence during discussions**—your final grade will fall dramatically. In other words, if you average a B+ on assignments and have poor class participation, your final mark will be C+ or lower. **If you are absent for more than four classes (and you do not provide an adequate excuse, i.e., you do not notify me after your second missed class), you will lose considerable points from your class participation mark.**

DROP/ADD

First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date	August 29
Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	September 6
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	September 19
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	September 30

2011 FALL SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Week 1

Tues. Aug. 30th – Introducing South Africa in Transnational and Global Contexts. We review the course syllabus, themes and expectations. Analyze for Sept. 1st class: South African map data in email attachment; ****bring map to Sept. 1st class**.**

Thurs. Sept. 1st – Apartheid South Africa through the Eyes of its Children and the Rest of the World. We watch the first half of “7-Up South Africa,” a 1992 documentary film about race relations and young people in South Africa during the country’s historic transition from apartheid to democracy. Read for Sept. 6th class: Mathabane, 3-77 (optional reading: Mathabane, 78-119).

Week 2

Tues. Sept. 6th – Global Youth Creates Global Democracy? Historical Lessons of the New South Africa. We watch the second half of “7-Up South Africa.” We discuss the documentary film and Mathabane’s memoir. Read for Sept. 8th class: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 1-25.

Thurs. Sept. 8th – Lecture and Discussion: “Sealed” v. “Unsealed” South Africa: Hunter-Gatherers, Farmers and Chiefdoms in Local Frameworks, Regional Contexts, and Indian Ocean Worlds. Read for Sept. 13th class: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 25-45; **primary source:** “Jan van Riebeeck’s Journal: An Exchange between VOC Commander and Khoer Chief after the 1660 War” (pdf emailed to class in attachment).

**Week 3

Tues. Sept. 13th – Lecture: The Dutch in Global Commerce: VOC Africa/Asia Trade, Cape Outpost, Chattel Slavery, and Khoer Life.

Thurs. Sept. 15th – **IN-CLASS EXAM: WRITING ANALYSIS** of “Jan van Riebeeck’s Journal: An Exchange between VOC Commander and Khoer Chief after the 1660 War” (15% of total course grade). Read for Sept. 20th class: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 39-70.

Week 4

Tues. Sept. 20th – Lecture and Discussion: New Legal and Religious Regimes: The British Empire and “Civilizing Missions” in South Africa.

Read for Sept. 22nd class: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 93-94, 118-120; **primary sources:** Archived letters of British forces in the colonial Cape: “Testimonies of soldiers in Xhosaland” (pdf emailed to class in attachment).

Thurs. Sept. 22nd – Lecture: Protestant Equality before Law and British Give-and-Take? Afric/kan Frontiers, Xhosa Struggles and “Total War” in the Cape.

Read for Sept. 27th class: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 94-111, 119-121; J. B. Peires, “The Central Beliefs of the Xhosa Cattle-Killing,” *Journal of African History* 28 (1987): 43-63 (pdf emailed to class in attachment).

Week 5

Tues. Sept. 27th– Lecture and Discussion: Deliverance and Death: Boer Movements and African Defenses during the Great Trek and Xhosa Cattle-Killing.

Thurs. Sept. 29th– NO CLASS; this class period will be made up as a review session for the midterm exam.

Read for Oct. 4th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 71-81, 111-118, 150-154; Sifiso Ndlovu, “A Reassessment of Women’s Power in the Zulu Kingdom” in *Zulu Identities*, in B. Carton, et al. eds. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009); pdf emailed to class in attachment.

Week 6

Tues. Oct 4th– Lecture and Discussion: King Shaka and the Zulu Crucible, and British Response in Colonial Natal: Changing Traditions of Authority and Autonomy in South Africa. Read for Oct. 6th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 129-155.

Thurs. Oct 6th – Lecture: Glimmering Global Capitalism: Rising Diamond Discoveries and Falling African Kingdoms. Review previous assigned readings in preparation for midterm exam on Oct 18th.

****Week 7 GMU is closed for Columbus Day on Mon. Oct 10th****

Tues. Oct. 11th – NO SCHEDULED CLASS ** ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL GMU FALL 2011 CALENDAR.**

Thurs. Oct. 13th – We review for Oct. 18th midterm exam.

**Week 8

Tues. Oct. 18th– **SHORT-ANSWER/ESSAY IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM.** Read for Oct. 20th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 158-170.

Thurs. Oct. 20th – Lecture: The Gold Revolution and Birth of Modernity in South Africa: Industrialization and Urbanization in the Johannesburg (Rand) Region. We view “A History of Soweto,” a documentary on mining privilege and township life in Johannesburg. Read for Oct. 25th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 170-182;

Week 9

Tues. Oct. 25th– Lecture and Discussion: Civil War between the Whites? The Old Conflict and New Union in South Africa Read for Oct. 27th Abrahams, *Mine Boy*, 1-47; MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 183-197.

Thurs. Oct. 27th – Lecture: The Dawn of National Segregation (Twentieth-century White Supremacy). Read for Nov. 1st Abrahams, *Mine Boy*, 48-184.

Week 10

Tues. Nov 1st – Discussion: South African Urban Life in *Mine Boy*.

Thurs. Nov. 3rd–Discussion: South African Urban Life in *Mine Boy* and Legacies of Mass Mobilization Against White Supremacy. Read for Nov. 8th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 195-209; go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=4813>; click on 1919 Constitution of the African National Congress, then read excerpts of this “Constitution.”

**Week 11

Tues. Nov. 8th – **SHORT-ANSWER IN-CLASS EXAM.** Read for Nov. 10th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 195-203; go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=4408>; click on John Dube “A Talk Upon My Native Land”; go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=4813>; click on “1919 Constitution of the African National Congress,” then read excerpts of this “Constitution.”

Thurs. Nov. 10th – Lecture and Discussion: Surging Popular Politics: The National and International Influences on Reformist and Radical Ideologies.

Read for Mon. Nov. 15th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 204-209; go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=4439>; click on “ANC Youth League Manifesto 1944.”

Week 12

Tues. Nov. 15th – Lecture: Racial Segregation and World War: Major Generational Shifts in Global and South African Politics. Read for Nov. 17th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 210-231.

Thurs. Nov. 17th – Lecture and Discussion: The Age of Apartheid.

Read for Tues. Nov. 22nd MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 232-36; Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy* (“Bantu Education”) 123-155, (pass laws) 328-330; go to <http://www.anc.org.za/list.php?t=Articles&y=1952>; click on “We Defy.”

Week 13

Tues. Nov. 22nd – Lecture and Discussion: International and National Opposition to Apartheid: African Women’s Demands, Divided Campaigns, and Government Crackdowns in the Cold War Era.

Read for Mon. Nov. 29th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 236-255; go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=3430>; click on “Nelson Mandela’s Statement from the Dock, Rivonia Trial, 1964.”

Thurs. Nov. 24th THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

Week 14

Tues. Nov. 29th – Lecture: From Sharpeville 1960 to Soweto 1976. Read for Thurs. Dec. 1st Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy*, (Soweto Uprising) 259-286.

Thurs. Dec. 1st – Lecture and Discussion: The Soweto Explosion, 1976 and Beyond: The “Numbered Days of Apartheid.” We view the documentary “Soweto,” featuring clips of the 1976 student revolt and post-uprising interviews with protestors, parents and officials. **We also begin to review for the final exam on Dec. 15, 2011.** Optional reading: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 255-279.

Week 15

Tues. Dec. 6th – Lecture: The Collapse of Apartheid and Rise of Democracy. We continue to review for final in-class essay exam scheduled for Thurs Dec. 15th, 10:30 AM-1:15 PM.

Thurs. Dec. 8th – REVIEW FOR FINAL ESSAY EXAM scheduled for next week **Thurs. Dec. 15th, 10:30 AM- 1:15 PM.**

*** ***FINAL ESSAY EXAM: DEC. 15, 2011 in our classroom, Robinson B224, @ 10:30 AM- 1:15 PM*****