

**History 360 (A01): History of South Africa from Pre-colonial Times to
Apartheid (1500s-1960s)**

SUMMER 2012, Tues/Thurs 7:00-10:05 PM; Sat 9:00 AM-12:05 PM Robinson B208

Dr. Benedict Carton, Associate Professor of History (bcarton1@gmu.edu)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

South Africa has been shaped by centuries of social turmoil sparked, in part, by maritime trade, the rise of great African kingdoms, spreading colonialism, rapid industrialization, and legalized segregation. In this course we explore a range of events, from the hinterland expansions of black political powers to the rise of popular movements against colonial rule and apartheid. Our aim is to understand the interplay between conquest, resistance, and accommodation within a global perspective of South African history.

Historians use different frameworks of interpretation. Some scholars view South Africa's past through the lens of gender relations; others focus on racial and class divisions. Over the past two decades, historians have concentrated on ethnic (rather than "tribal") nationalisms that fueled revolutionary transformations. The latest studies highlight how calamities (e.g., pandemic disease) dramatically changed South Africa. A major goal of this class is for you to consider these scholarly reconsiderations and debates, using the readings to construct your own perspectives. You are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions. The issues we study have important contemporary relevance.

READINGS

The required readings include works of historical analysis and literature. Some readings will be sent to you by email in jpg or pdf files (i.e., primary sources and journal articles); other sources will need to be downloaded from a Web site. You will also view documentary films on race relations in South Africa. The following **required texts** can be purchased from the GMU bookstore:

1. Aran Mackinnon, *The Making of South Africa*.
2. Peter Abrahams, *Mine Boy*.

You are strongly encouraged to **ask questions in class and participate in discussions.**

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"

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the course include a short-answer exam (20%); a short-answer midterm exam with writing exercise (30%); a final short-answer/essay exam (35%); and class participation (15%). **Please note that if you are absent for more than one week without explanation, your overall grade will drop considerably.**

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Essay and Exam Themes: Essay and short-answer questions will explore the impact of European contact on African society; the rise of industrialization; racial ideologies and inequalities; and the nationalist forces that influenced liberation movements.

Writing Standards: A good essay is concise, clear, and well documented; it must answer the question posed, present an argument, and integrate important themes from assigned readings. Muddled prose and poor grammar will reduce your grade. We will discuss the features of an excellent history essay well before your final essay exam.

Exam Rules and Deadlines: In accordance with university regulations, professors in the Department of History and Art History re-schedule exams after receiving written documentation of a medical emergency or family emergency; **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 an extension.

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 regulations at George Mason University and your professor's social contract with his students. **I strongly advise that you take notes in class.** To be considered for a good grade, you **must complete** the assigned readings **before** you come to class; finish assignments in a timely fashion; receive solid grades for your exams and essay; and participate to the best of your ability in discussions.

Please come to each class having completed the assigned readings for the lecture/discussion

GMU ACADEMIC POLICIES

You are required to honor George Mason University's academic policies and codes, especially the sections on plagiarism. For details, see the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

My **office hours** will be Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 PM and Thursdays, 5:00-5:30 PM. If I change these times, I will inform you in advance. Appointments can also be made after class lectures or by email: bcarton1@gmu.edu. **My office is in Robinson B Room 355 B.** If you have problems meeting a deadline, please contact me right away.

2012 SUMMER SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Week 1:

Tuesday, May 22nd: South Africa in National and Global Contexts: Children's Perspectives of History, Culture, and Politics.

We view (and discuss) the 1992 film, "7-Up South Africa," a documentary exploring apartheid-era race relations. Read for the May 24th class: MacKinnon, 1-20.

Thursday, May 24th: Views from Below and Above: African Societies in an Indian Ocean World.

We finish viewing (and discussing) the 1992 film, "7-Up South Africa." Read for May 29th class: MacKinnon, 22-43; **primary source:** Excerpt from Jan van Riebeeck's "Journal" (I will email the jpg file of this document to all students).

Week 2:

Tuesday, May 29th: Early Colonial Settlements and Expanding Frontiers in South Africa During an Age of Global Maritime Trade.

Read for May 31st class: MacKinnon, 46-68, 93-94, 118-119; **primary source:** Letters by British soldiers fighting "total war" in the Xhosa Cape (I will email the jpg files of these documents to all students).

Thursday, May 31st: 19th-century Global British Imperialism, South African Colonization, International "Civilizing Missions," and Total Wars of Conquest.

*****Review for First In-class Exam.**

Saturday, June 2nd: *First In-class Exam.**

Read for June 5th class: MacKinnon, 71-81, 94-103, 111-118, 150-154; **primary source:** Excerpt from "Cetshwayo the Zulu King Complains of Unjust Treatment, 1881" (I will email the jpg file of this document to all students).

Week 3:

Tuesday, June 5th: The Great Trek, Xhosa Cattle Killing, and Zulu Kingdom/Natal Colony: Flight, Destruction and Barrier.

Read for June 7th class: MacKinnon, 129-141; view "hobbling scene" in the film "Misery": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5OlolbLXvw>

Thursday, June 7th: The Arrival of International Capitalism in South Africa: Diamond Discoveries and Defeated African Kingdoms.*Review for Midterm.**

Saturday June 9th: *Midterm Exam.**

Read for June 12th class: MacKinnon, 158-175; Abrahams, *Mine Boy* (first half of book).

Week 4:

Tuesday, June 12th: The Gold Revolution and Birth of Modernity: Industrialization and Urbanization in South Africa's Johannesburg (Rand) Region.

We view parts of "A History of Soweto," a documentary on mining privilege and township life in Johannesburg. Read for June 14th class: Abrahams, *Mine Boy* (second half of book); **primary source:** "Building Blocks of Segregation" (I will email the jpg file of this document to all students).

Thursday, June 14: *Mine Boy*: Transformations in City and Country: The Forces of Future Liberation and Intensifying Segregation in the Early 20th century.

Read for June 16th class: MacKinnon, 175-204, 210-217; **primary sources**: 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”; go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=4408>; click on John Dube “A Talk Upon My Native Land.”

Saturday, June 16th (SOWETO DAY): Legal Segregation (White Supremacy), Roots of Mass Resistance, and Dawn of Apartheid, 1920s-1950s.

Read for June 19th class: MacKinnon, 217-243; **primary sources**: go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=4439>; click on “ANC Youth League Manifesto 1944”; go to <http://www.anc.org.za/list.php?t=Articles&y=1952>; click on “We Defy”; go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=3430>; click on “Nelson Mandela’s Statement from the Dock, Rivonia Trial, 1964.”

Week 5:

Tuesday, June 19th: Apartheid and Its Enemies, 1950s-1960s.

*****Review for Final Exam.**

*****Thursday, June 21st: IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM*****

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
May 20 <u>WEEK ONE</u>	May 21	May 22 1st class	May 23	May 24 2nd class	May 25	May 26 NO CLASS
May 27 <u>WEEK TWO</u>	May 28 University Closed Memorial Day	May 29 3rd class	May 30	May 31 4th class 1st exam review	June 1	June 2 5th class *1st Exam
June 3 <u>WEEK THREE</u>	June 4	June 5 6th class	June 6	June 7 7th class Midterm exam review	June 8	June 9 8th class *Midterm Exam
June 10 <u>WEEK FOUR</u>	June 11	June 12 9th class	June 13	June 14 10th class	June 15	June 16 11th class
June 17 <u>WEEK FIVE</u>	June 18	June 19 12th class Final exam review	June 20	June 21 13th class FINAL EXAM 7:00-10:05 PM	June 22	June 23