

Fall 2012 HIST 360 (001): History of South Africa

Dr. Benedict Carton, Associate Professor, Tues-Thurs 12:00-1:15 PM
Nguyen Engineering Building 1107

Office Hours: Rob B355B, Tues. 1:15-2:15 PM/Thurs. 11:00-11:45 AM.

Or by appointment: **bcarton1@gmu.edu**

Today, South Africa is struggling to overcome centuries of social turmoil sparked, in part, by colonial conquest, slavery, rapid industrialization, and legalized segregation. In our course we explore these dynamic processes, from the first Cape encounters between Dutch sailors and Khoe pastoralists to the influences of Indian Ocean commerce, global Christianity and European imperialism. We also chart the frontier movements of white and black political powers, which gave rise to modern nationalist struggles. Some of these struggles promoted broader freedoms while others defended narrower goals. Our principal aim is to understand the complex interplay between accommodation and resistance in South African history. More detailed descriptions of weekly themes appear in the “2012 Fall Semester Schedule” below.

Historians use different frameworks of interpretation. Some scholars view South Africa’s past through the lens of ethnic conflict, class identity, racial divisions and/or gender relations; others focus on the dramatic consequences of environmental calamities, including pandemic. In this class you will explore a range of interpretations using primary materials, scholarly articles, and peer-reviewed books to construct your own arguments.

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, literature, eyewitness accounts, speeches, and film. 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. 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 required to complete the specifically assigned readings before coming to class.*****

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The full requirements for this course include an in-class written analysis of a primary source (15%); midterm exam (20%); a short-answer exam (15%), with essay component; final in-class essay exam, with short-answer section (35%); 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. During our class discussions, you will be encouraged to identify, evaluate and cite scholarship that enhances your awareness of the interconnectedness and diversity of an increasingly global world. 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 an 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 assigned 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 “MASONLIVE”—to receive important information, including timely messages and modified requirements 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 conquests 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.

(READ CAREFULLY AND COMPLY): 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.), or sudden car troubles, **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 during 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 "2012 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 essays/exams 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 points from your class participation mark.**

DROP/ADD

First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date	August 27
Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	September 4
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	September 18
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	September 28

2012 FALL SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Week 1

Tues. Aug. 28th – South Africa in local, national and global contexts. We review the course syllabus, themes and expectations. Analyze for Aug. 30th class: South African map data in email attachment; ****bring map to Aug. 30th class**.**

Thurs. Aug. 30th – Apartheid South Africa through the eyes of children and the world. We begin watching “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. 4th class: scholarly article titled “Talking about Tribe” (pdf file will be emailed to class in attachment); especially read sections on the “Zulu tribe” of South Africa.

Week 2

Tues. Sept. 4th – Youth history: lessons of the new and old South Africa. We finish viewing “7-Up South Africa” and discuss the documentary film and article.

Read for Sept. 6th class: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 1-25.

Thurs. Sept. 6th – Lecture and Discussion: hunter-gatherers, mixed farmers and chiefly politics: regional perspectives and Indian Ocean links.

Read for Sept. 11th class: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 25-45;

primary source: “Jan van Riebeeck’s journal: an exchange between VOC commander and Khoe chief after the 1660 war” (jpg file will be emailed to class in attachment).

**Week 3

Tues. Sept. 11th – Lecture: Dutch East India Company (VOC) in global commerce: Africa/Asia trade, Cape outpost, chattel slavery, and Khoe life.

Thurs. Sept. 13th – **IN-CLASS EXAM: PRIMARY-SOURCE WRITING ANALYSIS** of “Jan van Riebeeck’s journal” (15% of total course grade).

Read for Sept. 18th class: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 46-70.

Week 4

Tues. Sept. 18th – NO CLASS; this class period will be made up as a review session for the midterm exam.

Thurs. Sept. 20th – Lecture and Discussion: new legal and religious regimes: British Empire and “civilizing missions” in South Africa.

Read for Sept. 25th class: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 93-94, 118-(top) 120; **primary sources:** Letters (home) from British troops in the colonial Cape: “Memories of white soldiers in Xhosaland” (pdf will be emailed to class in attachment).

Week 5

Tues. Sept. 25th – Lecture: Protestant equality before law and British give-and-take: Xhosa struggles, frontier expansions, and “total war” in the Cape.

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

Thurs. Sept. 27th – Lecture and Discussion: deliverance and death: Boer movements during Great Trek/African defenses during Xhosa Cattle-Killing.

Read for Oct. 2nd MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 71-81, 111-118, 150-154; scholarly article for optional reading: Sifiso Ndlovu, “A Reassessment of Women’s Power in the Zulu Kingdom” in *Zulu Identities* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009); pdf will be emailed to class in attachment.

Week 6

Tues. Oct 2nd – Lecture and Discussion: King Shaka of the Zulu crucible and the rise of British power in colonial Natal.

Read for Oct. 4th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 129-140; view “hobbling scene” in the film “Misery,” a cinematic adaptation of Stephen King’s novel: [p://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5OlolbLXvw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5OlolbLXvw)



Thurs. Oct 4th – Lecture: glimmering global capitalism: diamonds are forever, as are Cecil Rhodes and De Beers (<http://www.debeers.com/about-de-beers>). Review lecture outlines and readings for weeks 3-6 to prepare for midterm.

****Week 7 GMU is closed for Columbus Day on Mon. Oct 8th****

Tues. Oct. 9th – NO SCHEDULED CLASS ** ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL GMU FALL 2012 CALENDAR.**

Thurs. Oct. 11th – **We review for upcoming Oct. 16th midterm exam.**

**Week 8

Tues. Oct. 16th – ** MIDTERM EXAM**

Read for Oct. 18th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 158-170.

Thurs. Oct. 18th – Lecture: gold revolution in South Africa: industrialization and urbanization in the Johannesburg (Rand) region. We view “A History of Soweto,” a documentary portraying mining wealth and township life.

Read for Oct. 23rd MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 170-185.

Week 9

Tues. Oct. 23rd – Lecture and Discussion: civil war between the whites? An old conflict and new union in South Africa.

Read for Oct. 25th Abrahams, *Mine Boy*, 1-47; MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 185-195; **primary source:** “Building Blocks of Segregation” (the jpg file of this document will be emailed to all students).

Thurs. Oct. 25th – Lecture: dawn of national segregation (twentieth-century white supremacy). Read for Oct 30th Abrahams, *Mine Boy*, 48-184.

**Week 10

Tues. Oct. 30th – Mandatory Discussion: urban life in *Mine Boy*.

Thurs. Nov. 1st – Mandatory Discussion: urban life in *Mine Boy* and the origins of popular resistance to white supremacy.

****We review for upcoming Nov. 6th exam, with essay component****

**Week 11

Tues. Nov. 6th – ** IN-CLASS EXAM, WITH ESSAY COMPONENT**
Read for Nov. 8th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 195-203; **primary sources**: 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” and read excerpts.

Thurs. Nov. 8th – Lecture and Discussion: surging popular politics: national and international dimensions of reform and radicalism.

Read for Nov. 13th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 204-210; **primary source**: go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=4439>; click on “ANC Youth League (YL) Manifesto 1944”; focus on the ideas of Anton Lembede, leader of the ANC YL.

Week 12

Tues. Nov. 13th – Lecture: racial segregation and world war: generational shifts in global and South African politics. Read for Nov. 15th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 210-231; **primary source**: Leslie Rubin, *This is Apartheid* (pamphlet).

Thurs. Nov. 15th – Lecture and Discussion: Apartheid.

Read for Nov. 20th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 232-236; **primary source**: go to <http://www.anc.org.za/list.php?t=Articles&y=1952>; click on “We Defy”; see statements by Lilian Ngoyi.

Week 13

Tues. Nov. 20th – Lecture and Discussion: National and international opposition to Apartheid: African women, divided campaigns, and state crackdowns.

Thurs. Nov. 22nd NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

Read for Nov. 27th MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 236-255; **primary source**: go to <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=3430>; click on “Nelson Mandela’s Statement from the Dock, Rivonia Trial, 1964”; scholarly article for optional reading: Jabulani Sithole, “ANC President Chief Albert Luthuli and Bantustan Politics,” in *Zulu Identities* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009); pdf will be emailed to class in attachment.

Week 14

Tues. Nov. 27th – Lecture: From Sharpeville 1960 to Soweto 1976. Optional reading for Nov. 29th: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 255-275.

Thurs. Nov. 29th – Lecture and Discussion: The Soweto explosion and 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. 13, 2012.** Optional reading for Dec. 4th: MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, 277-287.

Week 15

Tues. Dec. 4th – Lecture: the collapse of Apartheid and rise of democracy. We continue to review for final in-class essay exam.

Thurs. Dec. 6th – REVIEW FOR FINAL ESSAY EXAM scheduled for next week Thurs. Dec. 13th, 10:30 AM- 1:15 PM.

*** ***FINAL IN-CLASS ESSAY EXAM, WITH SHORT-ANSWER SECTION: DEC. 13, 2012 (10:30 AM- 1:15 PM) in our classroom*****