

HISTORY 261

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Professor George Drake
HHH 103

Spring Semester 2014-2015
ARH 102
T/TH 10:00-11:20

INTRODUCTION:

The Southern African region is well worth study. Therefore, I introduced this course in the mid 1990's after returning from two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho. Since my retirement in 2004, Professor Prevost has taught the course, though I did teach it once more in 2007-2008. This spring, I once again have the privilege of teaching Southern African history. Though I am not a trained "Africanist", I am fascinated by the history of the region, especially South Africa and I love teaching this course. I have visited the region half a dozen times since returning from Peace Corps service.

The course will provide an overview of the Southern African region (rather than a country-by-country analysis), with special attention to South Africa and a detour into Lesotho. Considerably more than half of the course will focus on South Africa, particularly in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.

ASSIGNED READING:

Sindiwe Magona, **To My Children's Children**, 1998

Rian Malan, **My Traitor's Heart**, 1991

Rian Malan, **The Lion Sleeps Tonight**, 2012

Mark Mathabane, **Kaffir Boy**, 1987

Nelson Mandela, **Long Walk to Freedom**, 1994

Colin McEvedy, **Penguin Atlas of Africa**, 1995

Alister Sparks, **Beyond the Miracle**, 2003

Leonard Thompson, **A History of South Africa**, 2001

Blackboard: Steve Biko, **I Write What I Like** (selections); **Bill of Rights of the South African Constitution**; *and a number of geography materials as well as some regional analysis.*

There also will be some handouts from time to time.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

The reading assignments are important and persistent. There will be a final examination and a short geography quiz early in the course. In addition, there are two essays accompanied by small group tutorials as well as three one-page papers.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Percentage of the final grade:

1. EXAMINATIONS:

Geography (Tuesday, Feb. 3)	5%
<u>Final Examination</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total for Examinations	35%

2. PAPERS:

Two Essay/Tutorials	40%
<u>Three one-page papers</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total for papers	55%

- a. Two Essays with accompanying Tutorials:** You will write two essays (approximately five pages in length), the topics to be chosen from the lists at the end of this syllabus. Tutorial groups will be formed according to topics and the groups will read each other's essays and meet to discuss them in Tutorials to be scheduled during the weeks of February 17 and April 21. Essays will be exchanged on the due dates: Thursday, February 12 and Thursday, April 16. Your choice of topics and schedules of available time for Tutorials will be submitted in class on Thursday, February 5 and Thursday, April 9.

Essays are not exhaustive treatments of the subject. Rather, they present focused and well organized arguments based on solid analysis of the issues and they are presented in well- organized and clear prose. The essays can be written from the assigned reading.

- b. One page papers:** You are to submit three one-page papers chosen from Your reading of these five authors: Mathabane, Magona, Malan, Biko and Mandela. In other words, you will write on three of the five authors. The choice is yours. The due dates are: Mathabane, Tuesday, March 10; Magona, Thursday, March 12; Malan, Tuesday April 7; Biko, Tuesday, April 14; and Mandela, Tuesday, April 28. The choice of books is yours. This is an exercise in writing thoughtfully and concisely. Normally, it is best to focus on a single issue or question.

3. CLASS PARTICIPATION: You share responsibility with the instructor and fellow students for the success of this educational experience. Therefore, you are expected to attend regularly and contribute to class discussion. Some of the discussions will be led by students.

Total for all assignments 10%
100%

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week I

Tuesday, January 20 *Introduction*

Thursday, January 22 *Geography of Southern Africa*

Reading: Colin McEvedy, **Penguin Atlas**: Introduction; pp 8-22, 32-36, 40-44, 56-58, 64-97.

Week II

Tuesday, January 27 *Geography of Southern Africa*

Reading: **Penguin Atlas**: pp. 98 to the end; **Blackboard**: Kevin Shillington, **A History of Southern Africa**, Maps on pp. 6, 13, 16. R.B. Bunnett, **Physical Geography in Diagram for Arica**, All.

Thursday, January 29 *Geography of Southern Africa and Regional matters*

Reading: **Blackboard**: **Longman Secondary School Atlas**, All; **A History of Southern Africa**, Chapters 1-2.

Week III

Tuesday, February 3 *Geography Test & The Region*

Reading: Handout, **African History: From Earliest Times to Independence**, Chapter 9

Thursday, February 5 *Southern African Region and Lesotho*

Reading: **African History**, Chapter 10; **Blackboard**: **Chronicles Of Basutoland**, pp. 25-26, 186, 196, 318, 511-517, 156

Choice of Essay topic and schedule of available time due in class

Week IV

Tuesday, February 10 *Lesotho*

Reading: **Blackboard**: **Chronicles of Basutoland**, pp. 244-248 (Battle

Of Thaba Bosiu), 322-327, 344-352, 359-363, 365-368, 372-380, 469-470, 472-473, 524-525, 532-537, 523.

Thursday, February 12 *South Africa*

Reading: **A History of South Africa**, Preface, Chronology, Chapter 1

Essays due in HHH by 4:30 and with your Tutorial Partners

Week V

TUTORIALS

Tuesday, February 17 *South Africa*

Reading: **History of South Africa**, Chapter 2-3

Thursday, February 19 *No Class (Tutorials)*

Week VI

Tuesday, February 24 *South Africa: Expansion and Anglo-Boer War*

Reading: **A History of South Africa**, Chapters 4-6

Thursday, February 26 *South Africa: Apartheid*

Reading: **A History of South Africa**, Chapters 7-8, Appendices

Week VII

Tuesday, March 3 *South Africa: Apartheid*

Reading: **Kaffir Boy**, Part I (Road to Alexandra)

Thursday, March 5 *South Africa: Apartheid*

Reading: **Kaffir Boy**, Part II (Passport to Knowledge)

Week VIII

Tuesday, March 10 *South Africa: Apartheid*

Reading: **Kaffir Boy**, Part III (Passport to Freedom)

To My Children's Children: pp. 1-83

One-page paper on Kaffir Boy due in class

Thursday, March 12 *South Africa: Apartheid*

Reading: Finish **To My Children's Children**

One-page paper on To My Children's Children due in class

SPRING BREAK (MARCH 16-27)

Week IX

Tuesday, March 31 *South Africa: Self-Examination*

Reading: **My Traitor's Heart**, Book I (Life in this Strange Place)
Begin Book II (Tales of Ordinary Murder)

Thursday, April 2 *South Africa: Self-Examination*

Reading: Continue Book II (Tales of Ordinary Murder) to p. 271.

Week X

Tuesday, April 7 *South Africa: Self-Examination*

Reading: **My Traitor's Heart**, Finish Book II and Book III (A Root
In Arid Ground)

One-page paper on My Traitor's Heart due in class

Thursday, April 9 *South Africa: Black Consciousness*

Reading: **Blackboard**: Steve Biko, **I Write What I Like**, 9 Definition
of Black Consciousness; 5 Black Souls in White Skins; 6 We Blacks;
8 Some African Cultural Concepts;

Essay topics and available time due in class.

Week XI

Tuesday, April 14 *Black Consciousness, also, Nelson Mandela*

Reading: **I Write What I Like**, 10 The Church as seen by a
Young Layman; 11 White Racism and Black Consciousness;
14 Black Consciousness and the Quest for a True Humanity;
17 American Policy towards Azania.

Long Walk to Freedom, Parts 1 and 2

One-page paper on I Write What I Like due in class

Thursday, April 16 *Mandela*

Reading: **Long Walk to Freedom**, Part 3

Essays due in HHH by 4:30 and with your Tutorial partners

Week XII

TUTORIALS

Tuesday, April 21 *Mandela*
Reading: **Long Walk to Freedom**, Parts 4-7

Thursday, April 23 *No Class (Tutorials)*
Reading: **Long Walk to Freedom**, Parts 8-10

Week XIII

Tuesday, April 28 *The New South Africa*
Reading: **Long Walk to Freedom**, Part 11
Beyond the Miracle, Chapters 1-4 to page 53; Chapters 6-8

One-page paper on Long Walk to Freedom due in class

Thursday, April 30 *The New South Africa*
Reading: **Beyond the Miracle**, Chapters 9, 11, 13-16

Sunday evening, May 3 **Movie: Invictus**
At Professor Drake's house. 531 Mayflower Lane, popcorn will be Served.

Week IV

Tuesday, May 5 *How New is South Africa?*
Reading: **The Lion Sleeps Tonight**, Forward; Invictus, Season of the Leopard; Report from Planet Mbeki; Great White Hyena; Among the Aids Fanatics; A Truth Of Sorts; The Queen; A Question of Spin; The Apocalypse That Wasn't.

Thursday, May 7 *How New is South Africa?*
Reading: **The Lion Sleeps Tonight**, The People's Republic Of Yeoville; House for Sale in a Doomed Country; Ugly Scenes In a Boer Province; Nemesis; Did You Hear the One About Apartheid? Those Fabulous Alcock Boys; Postscript.

Examination Week

Final Exam

ESSAY TOPICS

Essay One:

Choose one of the following:

1. *As you consider the impact of geography on the lives of southern Africans, what are the most significant factors? Limit yourself to no more than three and defend your choices.*
2. *What does the leadership of Moshoeshoe reveal about politics in Nineteenth Century Southern Africa?*

Essay Two:

Choose one of the following:

1. *What lies at the heart of apartheid theory and practice? Were theory and practice consistent?*
2. *Who offers the more perceptive analysis of black/white relations in South Africa under Apartheid: Steve Biko or Rian Malan?*