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## Course I: Introduction to South Africa's Political History

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Karen Smith

25 – 30 June 2018

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**Course Co-ordinator: Dr Karen Smith (E-mail: [karen.smith@uct.ac.za](mailto:karen.smith@uct.ac.za) )**

Karen Smith holds a PhD in Political Science and currently teaches International Relations at the Universities of Leiden and Cape Town. Previously, she was with the Department of Political Science at Stellenbosch University for eleven years. Her research interests include South Africa's foreign policy, the role of the emerging powers in global governance and exploring African contributions to International Relations. Despite her research focus on International Relations, she is passionate about teaching South Africa's political history, something she has done for 16 years.

[Profile at the Department of Political Studies at the University of Cape Town.](#)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

During this course, you will be introduced to South Africa's unique 20th century history, and the interplay between the country's political, social and economic issues. Almost 50 years of social engineering cannot be dismissed easily, and continues to influence the future of our democracy. Understanding how the past impacts on the present allows us to better understand the issues and challenges currently facing the country. The course commences with a brief overview of South Africa prior to 1948, and continues with an overview of the apartheid era, including the National Party government's increasingly harsh discriminatory measure, as well as the struggle against oppression. We then explore the negotiated transition to democracy, which has often been described as a 'miracle'. The second part of the week includes an exploration and assessment of the process of reconciliation that followed the 1994 election, and some reflection on the challenges of nation-building facing the post-apartheid state. The course will be conducted through interactive lectures, discussions, video material, and a field trip to Robben Island prison, where Nelson Mandela and other liberation fighters were sentenced to serve a life sentence.

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## COURSE STRUCTURE

Monday, 25 June	<p><i>Themes of the day:</i> Introduction to the Course Pre-Apartheid History Apartheid and the Struggle (part 1)</p> <p>08:15 – 11:00 Student Cards and Computer Registration 11:00 – 13:00 First Session 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch 14:00 – 15:30 Second Session 15:30 – 16:30 Computer Orientation</p>
Tuesday, 26 June	<p><i>Theme of the Day:</i> Apartheid and the Struggle (part 2) The Negotiated Transition</p> <p>09:00 – 11:00 First Session 11:00 – 11:30 Tea / Coffee 11:30 – 13:00 Second Session 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch 14:00 – 16:30 Third Session 17:30 Walk from Monica to Pulp Cinema 18:00 – 21:00 Film Screening &amp; Discussion</p>
Wednesday, 27 June	<p><i>Theme of the day:</i> Truth and Reconciliation</p> <p>09:00 – 11:00 First Session 11:00 – 11:30 Tea / Coffee 11:30 – 13:00 Second Session 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch 14:00 – 16:30 Third Session</p>
Thursday, 28 June	<p><i>Theme of the day:</i> The Challenges of Nation-Building Test</p> <p>09:00 – 10:00 Test 10:00 – 10:30 Tea / Coffee 10:30 – 13:00 First Session 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch 14:00 – 16:30 Second Session</p> <p>Course evaluation will be done at the end of the second session.</p>
Saturday, 30 June	<p>Field trip to Robben Island (weather permitting)</p>

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### **COURSE CONTENT and READINGS**

Readings will be made available on SUNLearn: <http://learn.sun.ac.za/>

#### **PRE-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA**

**Prescribed reading:**

- Nigel Worden (2007) *The Making of Modern South Africa: Conquest, Apartheid, Democracy*. Malden, MA & Oxford: Blackwell (pp. 73-104)

#### **THE APARTHEID STATE AND THE STRUGGLE – AN OVERVIEW**

**Prescribed reading:**

- Leonard Thompson (2001) *A History of South Africa*. Johannesburg & Cape Town: Jonathan Ball (pp.182-233)
- Holland, H. (1990) *The Struggle: A History of the ANC*. New York: George Braziller (pp.120-127)

#### **THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY: NEGOTIATING A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT**

**Prescribed reading:**

- David Welsh and J.E. Spence (2011) *Ending Apartheid*. Harrow: Longman (pp.117-144)

#### **THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY: THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**

**Prescribed reading:**

- Piers Pigou (2002) "False Promises and Wasted Opportunities? Inside South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission" in D. Posel and G. Simpson (eds) *Commissioning the Past: Understanding South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission*. (pp37-65)
- Lynn Graybill (2002) "Amnesty: A Controversial Compromise" in *Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa: Miracle or Model?* Boulder, Co: Lynne Rienner (pp.57-75)

#### **THE POLITICS OF IDENTITY, RACE AND NATION-BUILDING**

**Prescribed reading:**

- Alexander, N. (2003) "Nation Building and the Politics of Identity" in Alexander, N. *An Ordinary Country – Issues in the Transition from Apartheid to Democracy in South Africa*. New York: Berghahn Books (pp.81-110)
- Links to recent debates will be posted on SUNLearn.

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### EVALUATION

Your final grade for the course will be based on the following components:

Class Participation (5%)

Test (45%) – the test will be written on Thursday, 22 June 2017.

Written Assignment (50%) – the written assignment must be submitted by Friday, 30 June 2017.

### Written Assignment

You are required to submit a **1500 word** paper on one of the following topics:

TOPIC 1: Provide an overview of the role of a) the youth OR b) women OR c) the international community during the struggle against apartheid.

TOPIC 2: Discuss the following statement: “We have been sold this lie that the ANC of the late Nelson Mandela delivered freedom to us as a nation. Political freedom without economic freedom means absolutely nothing.” (Cameron Modisane, 2014)

**What should the format look like?** *Your essays must be typed using 1.5 line spacing. Remember to spell check and proofread your paper before handing it in.*

**Do I need to reference my sources?** *Yes, you must use in-line referencing (use whatever system you are used to, as long as you are consistent). Make sure that you include the date of publication and page numbering for in-text referencing.*

*Submission process: **Please submit your paper by 17:00 on Friday, 6 July 2018 via SUNLearn.** Please note that **the file name should be your first and last names, e.g. Karen Smith.docx***

### **How will the papers be graded?**

The following criteria will be used in grading your papers:

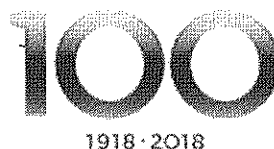
- Relevance to topic
- Strong introduction and conclusion
- Clarity, logic, coherence
- Arguments supported by evidence
- Free of errors in grammar, punctuation, word choice, spelling, and format
- Evidence of critical thinking and engagement with the topic

### **Plagiarism:**

Please note that plagiarism in any form is regarded as a serious offence and will result in penalties. All written assignments must be uploaded onto Turnitin via SUNLearn. Students are also required to sign a plagiarism declaration.



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June 2018

## Introduction to South Africa's Political History

### Top-up assignment guidelines

#### Additional reading

- Rob Nixon (1992) "Apartheid on the Run: The South African Sports Boycott" in *Transition*, no. 58, pp. 68-88.
- Bill Keller (1993) "South Africa Sanctions May Have Worked, at a Price" in *The New York Times*, 12 Sept. Available at <https://www.nytimes.com/1993/09/12/weekinreview/the-world-south-africa-sanctions-may-have-worked-at-a-price.html>
- Philip Levy (1999) "Sanctions on South Africa: What Did They Do?" in *The American Economic Review*, vol. 89, no. 2, pp.415-420.
- Enuga Reddy (2015) "The United Nations and the struggle for liberation in South Africa" in *The Road to Democracy in South Africa*, vol.3 International Solidarity. Pretoria: UNISA Press. (this is a long chapter so read the sections that are of most interest to you).

I would also recommend watching some episodes from the documentary "Have you Heard from Johannesburg?", available online at <http://www.clarityfilms.org/haveyouheardfromjohannesburg/>

#### Written Assignment

You are required to submit a **1500 word** paper on the following topic:

What was the role of the international community in bringing an end to apartheid? You can choose to provide a general overview of the international community's response or focus on a specific action or actor. Examples include the sport and cultural boycotts, economic sanctions, the role of the United Nations, and the role of anti-apartheid movements in individual countries. You are expected to do additional research.

**What should the format look like?** Your essays must be typed using 1.5 line spacing. Remember to spell check and proofread your paper before handing it in.

**Do I need to reference my sources?** Yes, you must use in-line referencing (use whatever system you are used to, as long as you are consistent). Make sure that you include the date of publication and page numbering for in-text referencing.

Please note that plagiarism in any form is regarded as a serious offence and will result in penalties.

**Submission process:** Please submit your paper by 17:00 on Friday, 13 July 2018 via **SUNLearn**. Please note that the file name should be your first and last names, e.g. **Karen Smith.docx**