

HIS 350L/AFR 374C/WGS 340 • HISTORY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meets: M 3:00-6:00 PM, MEZ 2.118

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Course Description and Objective

Southern Africa is one of the continent's rich and varied regions, a region that holds cradle of humanity historical sites as well as thriving modern cities and everything in-between. Designed to both introduce students to the history of the region and give an in-depth understanding of particular countries as case studies, the course is both challenging and rewarding in the readings and writing assignments expected of students. Each year, the country case studies (may) change, and this year, 2012-13, the case countries will be Namibia and Botswana. We will particularly focus on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, analyzing how historical events and figures from that time-period inform what is going on in those countries and that region of Africa today. The main objective of the course is that students develop knowledge of Southern Africa, critical and analytical thinking, as well as excellent writing skills. Yes, **this is a reading and writing intensive course.**

Texts (all available at the University Co-op Bookstore as well as 24hr Reserve @ PLC)

- ❖ Jan-Bart Gewald, *Herero Heroes: A Social Political History of the Herero of Namibia*
- ❖ Colin Leys and Susan Brown, *Histories of Namibia: Living through the Liberation Struggle*
- ❖ Andre Brink, *The Other Side of Silence*
- ❖ Bessie Head, *Maru* (Classic Edition)
- ❖ Marjorie Shostak, *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*
- ❖ Kenneth Good, *Diamonds, Dispossession, and Democracy in Botswana*

Course Requirements and Assessment

10% - Two Map Quizzes (5% each)
10% - Final Paper Proposal and Bibliography
10% - Reflection Essay
20% - Attendance and Participation
20% - Analytical Essays (2 @ 10% each)
30% - Final paper.

Grading scale: A+ 97-100; A 94-96; A- 90-93; B+ 87-89; B 84-86; B- 80-83; C+ 77-79; C 74-76; C- 70-73; D+ 67-70; D 61-66; F 60 and below

Course Grading Policy: The grades come in the +/- and straight range, as in: A+, A, A-, and so on. An A range grade signifies "exceptionally high achievement". The B range denotes "superior achievement". Students who receive a C range grade achieved a "satisfactory" mark. Then there are the lower marks- the D range calls attention to the students who achieved a "passing but unsatisfactory" mark. Likewise, an F range means "failure", and an I is an "incomplete" for the course.

The History Department and The University of Texas at Austin take **Academic integrity**, also known as Plagiarism, very seriously. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For an overview of the University and Department's policy regarding scholastic dishonesty, see these websites: <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/history/about/academic-integrity.php>
http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Religious Holy Day Policy: In this course, we follow the UT Policy for observance of any religious holiday. The Student should inform the Professor as far in advance as possible to make arrangements.

Class Attendance and Participation: This is not a course by correspondence. To that end, your physical, intellectual, and whole self is expected in class each week. Missing more than two classes – for whatever reason – means, you will automatically lose 50% of your attendance and participation grade.

Disability Statement: Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately as soon as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. I rely on the College of Liberal Arts for the need for reasonable accommodation based on documentation on file in their offices. Please act early as retroactive accommodation is not an option.

Classroom Etiquette: Respect is important both in and outside the classroom. In the classroom it means raising your hand, waiting your turn, and being respectful of different points of view on different issues. Also, in the 21st century, everyone has a laptop, smart phone, or whatever; so except on designated days please *turn off/silence and store away* your gizmos during class.

Communication: Updates about the class will be mainly through **Blackboard and email**. Please make sure you have an active UT email, and/or make sure your preferred email address is set up to receive class emails. Ignorance of important class information is inadmissible as an excuse.

Class Schedule (Slight changes may be made to Syllabus before class begins)

Week 01-Aug 29: Introduction to Southern Africa to 1800.

No Class meeting, but read assigned article posted on Class Blackboard (Bb)

Week 02-Sept 03: Labor Day Holiday – NO CLASS

Week 03-Sept 10: Case Study I – South West Africa under German Colonial Rule

Wallace and Kinahan, *History of Namibia*, Chapters 5 & 7.

Week 04-Sept 17: Herero Genocide, and Resilience

Gewald, *Herero Heroes: A Socio-Political History*.... (all).

Week 05-Sept 24: German Women and Colonialism

Andre Brink, *The Other Side of Silence* – (all).

Week 06-Oct 01: Double Jeopardy: South Africa as Colonial Master

Wallace and Kinahan, *History of Namibia*, Chapters 8 & 10;

Week 07-Oct 08: Remembering the Liberation Struggle against Apartheid

- Colin Leys and Susan Brown, *Histories of Namibia: Living through the Liberation Struggle* (all)
- Primary Document: League of Nations, *Mandate for German South West Africa*:
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2212962>

Week 08-Oct 15: Introduction to Case Study II - Botswana

W. A. Edge and M.H. Lekorwe, eds., *Botswana: Politics and Society*, selected chapters posted on e-Reserve.

Week 09-Oct 22: British and the Bechuanaland Protectorate

W. A. Edge and M.H. Lekorwe, eds., *Botswana: Politics and Society*, selected chapters posted on e-Reserve; Holm and Mulutsi, eds., *Democracy in Botswana*, selected chapters.

Week 10-Oct 29: Women, Gender, and “Ordinary” Life in Botswana’s History

Shostak, *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*, “Introduction” through Chapter 8.

Week 11-Nov 05: Women, Gender, and “Ordinary” Life in Botswana’s History

Shostak, *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*, Chapters 9 through Epilogue.

Week 12-Nov 12: Model Democracy?

Bessie Head, *Maru* (all)

Week 13-Nov 19: The Price of Precious Stones on a Democracy

Good, *Diamond, Dispossession, and Democracy in Botswana* (all)

Week 14-Nov 26: – Review and In-Class Writing Workshop (bring first 3 pages of your final essay)

Week 15-Dec 03: – No Class, Complete Your Final Essay due that same day by 8:00pm in my office.

GOOD LUCK ☺