

History of Southern Africa: Colonial Times to Independence

HIST 102 MC, Spring 2010

UCSB, History Department

Prof. M. Chikowero

Tues. & Thursday, 9:30-10:45am

Lecture Venue: TD-W 2600 (Theater and Dance)

Consultation: Tuesday 12-2pm.

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Course Description

This course explores some of the key political and socio-economic themes in Southern African history from the advent of colonial rule. Colonialism was a cataclysmic force, which directly and indirectly affected the daily lives of the colonized. How this new dispensation affected men, women and children and how the latter engaged with their new realities is the multi-dimensional story of this course. We will try to explore this story by focusing, as much as possible, on the everyday lives of the people of Southern Africa in their communities, workplaces and households. The voice of the colonized has traditionally been neglected, silenced and suppressed. We will try as much as possible to understand this history from the latter's perspective because the colonized were not simply victims; they were also agents, witnesses and narrators of their own stories.

The course approaches the region as a vast, complex cultural commonwealth, concentrating primarily on South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique with constant reference to the rest of the countries in the region. The course combines the thematic and chronological approaches, reading the historical template from the *Mfecane* Revolutions in the 19th century, the advent of white settler colonialism and African resistance, colonial industrialization and labor regimes, and nationalism through to decolonization at the close of the 20th century. In addition to secondary materials, the course also incorporates an array of primary sources that include memoirs, songs, newspapers and films to emphasize the multiplicity of perspectives and contestations that define the making and interpretation of history.

Instruction combines lectures, readings and discussions, viewing films and listening to songs. The films and music should be treated critically as historical sources rather than mere entertainment. Our discussions will center on readings and films listed against each week. Your preparation for these discussions is absolutely necessary, as is your careful, critical and timely engagement with the readings. You should have completed the reading assignments prior to the class meetings.

Attendance and Deadlines

Bar health emergencies, full attendance is expected. There is a high correlation between consistent attendance and good grades. Similarly, all deadlines are final except in extraordinary circumstances, which must be documented in writing. Assignments are due

at the end of class on the date listed on the class syllabus. You will lose 3 marks per day for late submission of assignments.

Reading Materials

You will be required to buy a novel, *Down 2nd Avenue*, by Es'kia Mphahlele from the UCSB Bookstore (confirmed on the way from South Africa; I will send an email when it arrives). Book chapters and articles make the core reading materials for this course. The chapters (and some older journal articles that are not available electronically) have been uploaded on the university library's **E-Reserve website** (Login details in email). **Newer journal articles are readily accessible electronically from the library website** (Students are expected to know how to find these as part of their research experience). Songs, films and other primary materials will be provided in class. **Kevin Shillington's *History of Southern Africa* is an OPTION** for those who want background reading. It can be ordered on Amazon.com and other vendors.

Assignments and Examinations

One map quiz, an in-class mid-semester exam, a research paper and an end-of-quarter exam constitute the writing requirements for this course. Detailed instructions for each of these assignments will be given in class.

Research Paper

Students' critical and analytical skills develop by writing. To that end, you will be required to choose one topic from a list that I will provide or to formulate one yourself for the research paper. The latter should be double-spaced, and about 10 pages long. I must **approve** all topics by the **4th week**. While **grammar** is not the focus of this course, poor prose can seriously undermine any piece of academic writing. Papers must therefore be **thoroughly revised** before submission. Plagiarized papers will not earn any marks.

Grading

2. Map quiz – 10.
4. Mid-semester exam – 25.
5. Research paper – 40.
6. Final exam – 25.

The total mark is graded on a percentage scale system as follows:

Numerical-Letter Grading Scale

- 34 & less = F
- 35 – 44 = D
- 45 – 54 = C
- 55 – 64 = C+
- 65 – 74 = B
- 75 – 84 = B+
- 85 – 100 = A

Academic Integrity

Students should acquaint themselves with the University policy on academic integrity, plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty can attract dire penalties that may include an automatic fail grade in the particular course and possible suspension from the university.

Punctuality: Please come to class in time to minimize disruptions

****Consultation:** please ask questions, see me after class, during consultation hours or email me with any queries regarding your progress. Don't wait until after a poor grade.

LECTURE THEMES AND READINGS

Introductions

Tues. January 5:

- Geography and Peoples of Southern Africa
- General Introduction

Southern African Historiographies, Sources and Methods

Thurs., Jan. 7:

- Phillips Stevens, Jr., "The Uses of Oral Traditions in the Writing of African History," *Tarikh*, Vo. 6, No.1, 1978/1980, pp.21-30.
- T.O. Ranger, "The Historiography of Southern Rhodesia," *TransAfrican Journal of History*, Vol.1, No.2, July 1971, pp.63-76.
- Gary Minkley and Ciraj Rassool, "Orality, Memory and Social History in South Africa," Sarah Nuttall and Carl Coetzee eds., *Negotiating the Past: The Making of Memory in South Africa*, pp. 89-100.

****Map Quiz****

Nguni Expansion and the Mfecane/Difaqane

Tues., Jan. 12:

Rise and Fall of Tshaka; Nguni dispersion; Ndebele State; the Gaza in Mozambique

- Leonard Thompson, *A History of South Africa*, pp.70-110.
- J.D. Omer-Cooper, "Shaka and the Rise of the Zulu," *Tarikh* 1, 1967, pp.30-41.
- David Norman Beach, "The Mfecane Problem" (in *The Shona and their Neighbours*), pp.129-139.

Thurs. Jan. 14: Mfecane Debate: A Closer Look

- Julian Cobbing, "The Mfecane as an Alibi: Thoughts on Dithakong and Mbolombo," *Journal of African Studies*, 29, 3, 1988: 487-519.
- Elizabeth Eldridge, "Sources of Conflict in Southern Africa, C. 1800-30: The Mfecane Reconsidered," *Journal of African History*, 33, 1, 1992, 1-35

****Historiographical Readings:**

- Dan Wylie, "Language and Assassination: Cultural Negations in White Writers' Portrayal of Shaka and the Zulu," in *The Mfecane Aftermath: Reconstructive Debates in Southern African Historiography*, Carolyn Hamilton (ed.).
- Norman Etherington, "Putting the Mfecane Controversy into Historiographical Context," in *Mfecane Aftermath*.

White Colonization: South Africa, the Zambezi Valley, Slave Trading; the Prazo System

Thurs., Jan. 19:

- Allen Isaacman, *Slavery and Beyond: The Making of Men and Chikunda Ethnic Identities in the Unstable World of South-Central Africa, 1750-1920*, 2004: 39-82

Tues., Jan. 21: The British colonization of Zimbabwe; land alienation; taxation; wage labor; early resistance

- Song: Thomas Mapfumo, 'Pfumvu Paruzevha' (Trouble in the reserves)
- Robin Palmer, "The Agricultural History of Rhodesia," in *Roots of Rural Poverty in Central and Southern Africa*, Robin Palmer and Neil Parsons, eds., UC Press, 1977.
- Robin Palmer, *Land and Racial Domination*, Chapters 2 & 3.

Thurs., Jan. 26: African Anti-Colonial Resistance Movements and their Suppression

- T.O. Ranger, Chapters 4 & 6: Ndebele and Shona Uprisings, 1896/7, *Revolt in Southern Rhodesia*.
- Julian Cobbing, "The Absent Priesthood: Another Look at the Rhodesian Risings of 1896-97," *Journal of African History* 18, 1, 1977.
- Mutibwa, Malagasy Uprisings against the French
- ****Please watch video before you come to class:** Germany's Herero Genocide: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXgIhSjWGhE>

The Minerals Revolution and Industrialization in South Africa

Tues. Jan. 26: Discovery of gold and diamonds: white capital, Black labour

- Song: Hugh Masekela, 'Stimela' (The Coal Train)
- William Worger, "Workers as Criminals: The Rule of Law in Early Kimberley, 1870-1885," in Fred Cooper (ed.), *Struggle for the City*.
- Alan Jeeves, "Over-Reach: The South African Gold Mines and the Struggle for the Labour of Zambesia, 1890 -1920," *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 1983, 17, 3.

Thurs., Jan 28: Fate of African Peasantry; Struggles over Land; Sharecropping; the 1913 Land Act

- Charles van Onselen, *The Seed is Mine: The Life of Kas Maine a South African Sharecropper*, 331-370.
- Sol Plaatje, *The Natives' Land Act in Cape Colony* (from *Native Life in South Africa*), Chapter 11.
- Colin Bundy, "The Emergence and Decline of a South African Peasantry," *African Affairs* 71, 285, 1972, 369-388.
- Jack Lewis, "The Rise and Fall of the South African Peasantry: A Critical Reassessment," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 11, 1, 1984.

Forced Cash Cropping, Resistance

Tues., Feb. 2

- Leroy Vail and Landeg White: "'Tawani Machembero!' Forced Cotton and Rice Growing on the Zambezi," *Journal of African History*, 19, 2, 1978, 239-163.
- Leroy Vail and Landeg White, "Paiva: History of a Song," in Vail and White, *Power and the Praise Poem*, pp.198-230.
- Allen Isaacman, Michael Stephen, Yussuf Adam, Maria Joao Homen, Eugenio Macamo and Augustinho Pililao, "Cotton is the Mother of Poverty": Peasant Resistance to Forced Cotton Production in Mozambique," *International Journal of African historical Studies* 13, 4, 1980.
- Songs: Dumisani Maraire, 'Chemutengure'; Thomas Mapfumo, 'Nhamo yemakandiwa.'

Thurs., Feb. 4

****Mid-Term Exam****

The Making of an Urban Working Class

Tues., Feb. 9: Proletarianization; Urban Drift

- Jeanne Penvenne, "Work for the White People, You Will be Able to Get Money," in J.M. Penvenne, *African Workers and Colonial Racism: Mozambican Strategies and Struggles in Lorenzo Marques, 1877-1962*.
- **Short Film: *Maids and Madams***

Thurs., Feb. 11: Urbanization: Geographies of Power

- Moses Chikowero, "Subalternating Currents: Electrification and Power Politics in Bulawayo, Colonial Zimbabwe, 1894-1939," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 33, 2, 2007.
- M. W. Swanson, "The Sanitation Syndrome: Bubonic Plague and Urban Native Policy in the Cape Colony, 1900-1909," *Journal of African History*, 18, 1977.

Urban Space: Terrain of Struggles

Tues., Feb. 16

- Phillip Bonner, "African Urbanization on the Rand between the 1930s and 1960s: Its Social Character and Political Consequences," *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 21, 1, 1995, 115-129.
- Teresa Barnes "Am I am Man?" Gender and the Pass Laws in Urban Colonial Zimbabwe, 1930-80," *African Studies Review*, 40, 1, 1992, 59-81.

Thurs., Feb. 18: Race, Space & Sex

- John Pape, "'Black and White: 'the Perils of Sex' in Colonial Zimbabwe,'" *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 16, 4, 1990: 699-720.
- Lynnette Jackson, "'When in White Man's Town: Zimbabwean Women Remember Chibheura,'" Jean Allman et. al. (eds), *Women in African Colonial Histories*, Indianapolis, Indiana University Press, 2002: 191-218.

Alcohol, Gender & Social Control

Tues., Feb. 23

Song: August Musarurwa, "Skokiaan."

- Charles Ambler, "Backs to the Fence: Law, Liquor, and the Search for Social Control in an East Rand Town, 1929-1942," in Charles Ambler and Jonathan Crush, *Liquor and Labour in Southern Africa*.
- Moses Chikowero, "Skokiaan: Criminalized Leisure, Subaltern Defiance & Self-Narration in Colonial Zimbabwe," Paper Presented at the African Studies Association, New Orleans, 20 November 2009.

Apartheid Unveiled: Bantu Education, Colonialism's Cultures

Thurs., Feb. 25:

- Tom Lodge, "The Destruction of Sophiatown," *Journal of Modern African Studies* 19, 1, 1981, 107-132.
- R.H.W. Shepherd, "The South African Bantu Education Act," *African Affairs* 54, No. 215, Apr., 1955, 138-142.
- David Welsh, "The Cultural Dimension of Apartheid," *African Affairs* 71, 282, 1972.

**Short Documentary: *The Color of Apartheid: Sandra Laing: A Spiritual Journey*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYZyvxpsCjQ&feature=player_embedded (or full film "Skin." **Please watch before you come to class**)

Protest Culture: Biography as Politics, African Humanism and Colonial Alienation

Tues., March 2

- Es'kia Mphahlele, *Down 2nd Avenue*

****Research Paper Due in Class**

Anti-Colonial Nationalism and the Liberation Struggle

- T.O. Ranger, Connexions Between 'Primary Resistance' Movements and Modern Mass Nationalism in East and Central Africa: 1," 9, 3, 1968.
- T.O. Ranger, "Connexions Between 'Primary Resistance' Movements and Modern Mass Nationalism in East and Central Africa: 11," *Journal of African history* 9, 4 1968.
- Tim Scanerrchia, "Poor Women and Nationalist Politics: Alliances and Fissures in the formation of Nationalist Political Movement in Salisbury, Rhodesia, 1950-56," *Journal of African Studies*, 37, 2, 1996: 283-310.

Thurs., March 4:

Defending the Laager: State Responses

- Ian Martinez, "The History of the Use of Bacteriological and Chemical Agents in Zimbabwe's Liberation War of 1965-1980 by Rhodesian Forces," *Third World Quarterly*, 23, 6, 2002, 1159-1179.
- Louise Pirouet, "Armed Resistance and Counter-Insurgency," *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 12, 1-4, 1977: 197-214.

Tues., March 9

- **Film:** *Amandla! Revolution in Four-Part Harmony*
- Stephen Zunes, "The role of Non-Violent Action in the Downfall of Apartheid," *Journal of modern African Studies* 37, 1999.

Last Day of Class: Reviews, Take-Home Exam
