

**HISTORY 4401**  
**STATE VIOLENCE, COMMUNAL CONFLICT AND CRIMINALITY**  
**IN MODERN SOUTH AFRICA**

**Fall 2009**

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South Africa is plagued by one of the world's highest rates of violent crime and social conflict. Despite the unprecedented level of public concern with violence, little attention is paid to the historical origins of this phenomenon. This course explores changes and continuities in the patterns of crime and violence from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

\*\* Students with disabilities are encouraged to register as quickly as possible at the Student Accessibility Services if they wish to receive academic accommodations. To do so please phone 494-2836, email [access@dal.ca](mailto:access@dal.ca), drop in at the new Mark A. Hill Accessibility Centre or visit our website [www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca](http://www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca). Students are also reminded that, for your convenience, all forms are now available on our website.\*\*

**Required Texts:**

Course reader available at Julia's Photocopy, 1525 LeMarchant St.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation**

All assignments must be typed - double-spaced and font-size twelve. Just as the content of your work is important, so is your ability to communicate ideas. Thus, spelling, grammar and clarity, along with strength of argument and analysis, will be considered in the grading of your assignments. If you miss a presentation date your grade will be 0 unless you present me with a doctor's note or equally compelling justification. Assignments submitted after the in-class deadline will incur a late penalty of 5% per day subject to the same conditions. Computer related difficulties are not acceptable excuses for late or unfinished assignments. Exams submitted after the deadline will not receive a grade.

**Assignments and Grading:**

Research Assignment	
Bibliography/Proposal, Oct. 30	10%
Final Research Paper, Nov. 27	30%
Participation	25%
Presentation	5%
Take Home Exam, Dec. 11	30%

## Academic Integrity

As a student, adherence to the values of academic integrity and related policies is a requirement of being part of the academic community at Dalhousie University.

### How can you achieve academic integrity?

- make sure you understand Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity
- give appropriate credit to the sources used in your assignments
- do not download the work of another from the Internet and submit it as your own
- do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor

*[these examples should be considered only as a guide and not an exhaustive list]*

### What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?

I am required to report a suspected offence. Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors

- The AIO decides whether to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process
- If the case proceeds, you will receive an INC (incomplete) grade until the matter is resolved
- If you are found guilty of an academic offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning to a suspension or expulsion from the University and can include a notation on your transcript, failure of the assignment or failure of the course. All penalties are academic in nature.

So, if you are ever unsure about ANYTHING, contact me.

**1) Participation – 25%.** This is an advanced seminar class that requires intensive reading and informed discussion. You must come to class prepared to discuss **all** the assigned readings for the week. This portion of your grade will be determined by my assessment of your knowledge of the assigned material and the quality (not just the quantity) of contributions to discussion. Come to each class prepared with a list of two to three questions or observations. **Please note:** More than three absences will result in a mark of 0 for the participation portion of your final grade.

**2) Presentation – 5%** Each student will be responsible for leading the discussion on a reading once in the semester. Assume that everyone has done the reading, so do not simply summarize. Rather, put together a brief (five minute) presentation highlighting what you consider to be the most important issues raised in the article and a set of questions that speak to these issues.

**3) Research Assignment – 40%** Annotated bibliography/proposal due **in class** October 30 (10%); Research paper due **in class** November 27 (30%) 15-20 pages, 4-5000 words.

### Style and Structure

Consult the History Department's style guide ([http://history.dal.ca/style\\_guide.htm](http://history.dal.ca/style_guide.htm)) to conform to the **only acceptable** format for citations. Any deviation from these guidelines will be

penalized. The best way to settle on a topic is to choose an area or event of particular interest – policing, political violence, criminal gangs, vigilantism, gender violence, the Soweto Uprising, etc. - and narrow your horizons from there. You should end up with a well-defined question which can be stated simply. The essay should be a convincing answer which marshals the relevant evidence in an orderly way. You need not make this question and answer format explicit in your essay, but it should provide the underlying structure. Having the question will allow you to keep your research and writing focused.

Annotated bibliography - Submit a list of a minimum of ten sources that you have consulted and intend to use in your paper. Each source must be accompanied by a paragraph explaining the value of the material to your paper and how you intend to use it. This paragraph **must** reflect that you have a good knowledge of this material. Finally, you will submit a one page proposal outlining the question you hope to answer and the main argument of your paper.

4) **Take Home Exam – 30%** Due Friday, December 11 by 4 p.m. Barring documented emergencies, late submissions will not be accepted.

### **Topics and Reading Schedule**

#### **September 18 – Migrants: The First Wave of Urban Gangs**

Hard Copy Reading: Charles van Onselen, *Studies in the Social and Economic History of the Witwatersrand 1886-1914, Vol. 2 New Nineveh* (1981), Chapter 4 – “The Regiment of the Hills”; Jeff Guy and Motlatsi Thabane, “The Ma-Rashea: A Participant’s Perspective” in Bozzoli (ed.) *Class, Community and Conflict* (1987).

On-line Reading: Keith Breckenridge, “Migrancy, Crime and Faction Fighting: the Role of the Isitshozi in the Development of Ethnic Organisations in the Compounds” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 16, 1 (1990).

#### **September 25 – Violence on the Mines**

HCR: Dunbar Moodie, *Going for Gold* (1995), Chapter 6 – “Faction Fights: Mine-Worker Violence.”

OLR: Keith Breckenridge, “The Allure of Violence: Men, Race and Masculinity on the South African Goldmines, 1900-1950” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 24, 4 (1998); Dunbar Moodie, “Maximum Average Violence: Underground Assaults on the South African Gold Mines, 1913-1965” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 31, 3 (2005).

#### **October 2 – Youth, Gangs and Crime**

HCR: Lauren Segal, Joy Pelo and Pule Rampa, “Into the Heart of Darkness: Journeys of the Amagents in Crime, Violence and Death” in Steinberg (ed.) *Crime Wave* (2001).

OLR: Paul La Hausse, “The Cows of Nongoloza: Youth, Crime and Amalaita Gangs in Durban, 1900-1936” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 16, 1 (1990); Clive Glaser, “Swines, Hazels and the Dirty Dozen: Masculinity, Territoriality and the Youth Gangs of Soweto, 1960-1976” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 24, 4 (1998).

### **October 9 – Youth Continued**

Film: *Tsotsi*

### **October 16 – Law & Order**

HCR: Clive Glaser, “Whistles and Sjamboks: Crime and Policing in Soweto, 1960-1976” *South African Historical Journal* 52 (2005); Jonny Steinberg, *Thin Blue: The Unwritten Rules of Policing in South Africa* (2008), Chapter 1 – “Two Incidents, Juxtaposed.”

OLR: David Goodhew, “The People’s Police Force: Communal Policing Initiatives in the Western Areas of Johannesburg, circa 1930-62” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 19, 3 (1993).

### **October 23 - Racial & State Violence**

HCR: Philip Frankel, *An Ordinary Atrocity* (2001), Part II – “Sociology of a Massacre”; Jacklyn Cock, *Colonels and Cadres: War and Gender in South Africa* (1991), Chapter 3 - “The ‘Protectors’: White Men and the SADF.”

OLR: Stephen Ellis, “The Historical Significance of South Africa’s Third Force” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 24, 2 (1998).

### **October 30 – Gender and Violence**

HCR: Katharine Wood and Rachel Jewkes, “Dangerous Love: Reflections on Violence Among Xhosa Township Youth” in Morrel (ed.) *Changing Men in Southern Africa* (2001).

OLR: Gary Kynoch, “A Man Among Men: Gender, Identity and Power in South Africa’s Marashea Gangs” *Gender & History*, 13, 2 (2001); Helen Moffet, “These Women, They Force us to Rape Them: Rape as a Narrative of Social Control in Post-Apartheid South Africa” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 32, 1 (2006).

### **November 6 – Taxi Conflicts**

HCR: Leslie Bank, “A culture of violence; the migrant taxi trade in QwaQwa 1980-90” in Preston-Whyte and Rogerson (eds.) *South Africa’s Informal Economy* (1991); Jackie Dugard, “Taxi Wars in South Africa’s Transition” in J. Steinberg (ed.) *Crime Wave* (2001).

OLR: MeShack Khosa, “Routes, Ranks and Rebels: Feuding in the Taxi Revolution” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 18, 1 (1991);

### **November 13 – Transition Violence**

OLR: Mike Morris and Doug Hindson, “South Africa: Political Violence, Reform and Reconstruction” *Review of African Political Economy* 53 (1992); Lauren Segal, “The Human

Face of Violence: Hostel Dwellers Speak” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 18, 1 (1992); Gary Kynoch, “Crime, Conflict and Politics in Transition Era South Africa” *African Affairs*, 104, 416 (2005).

**November 20 - The TRC**

Film: *Long Night's Journey into Day*

**November 27 – Cape Flats: Post-Apartheid Battleground**

HCR: Andre Standing, *Organised Crime: A Study from the Cape Flats* (2006), Chapter 3 – “The Structure and Dynamics of Organised Crime on the Cape Flats”; Steffen Jensen, *Gangs, Politics & Dignity in Cape Town* (2008), Chapter 4 – “The Back Streets”.

**December 4 - South Africa Today (Take-home exam distributed)**

OLR: Jonny Steinberg, “End of the Rainbow”, *The Guardian*, October 4, 2008  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/oct/04/southafrica.pogrom>