

Contemporary Africa

NINT 5100 - Contemporary Africa (Spring 2012)

Section A/CRN 7659

Sean Jacobs

Wednesday 4.00pm - 5.50pm

Description

This course will comprise of a survey of post-colonial politics in Sub-Saharan African politics, with a particular focus on Southern Africa. Some of the topics covered include colonialism, nationalism, the state, the political legacy of liberation, authoritarianism, civil society, globalization, social movements, youth, cultural politics and the role of mass media.

Contemporary Africa is a prerequisite for the South Africa IFP.

Schedule

Jan 25 **Introduction**

Course outline and some basic introductory facts and data.

No Readings

Feb 1 **Slavery and Colonialism**

The political, social and economic legacies of Slavery and Colonialism

Readings:

Sheldon Gellar, "The Colonial Era," in Africa by Phyllis Martin and Patrick O'Meara. 135-155. [PDF]

Kerry Ward, "Tavern of the Seas?" The Cape of Good Hope as an oceanic crossroads during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.' Conference Proceedings.

Krista Johnson and Sean Jacobs (eds), Encyclopedia of South Africa:

"Early Colonial Period: The Dutch at the Cape"

"British Imperialism and Settler Colonialism 1795-1870"

"British Imperialism and Settler Colonialism 1870-1910"

Gary Kynch, "Of Compounds and Cellblocks: The Foundations of Violence in Johannesburg, 1890s-1950s" Journal of Southern African Studies 37, 3 (2011).

Friday, Feb 3, is last day to add this class.

Feb 8 **Political Independence**

Readings:

Frederick Cooper, Africa Since 1940: The Past of the President, Chapters 4 and 5.

Krista Johnson and Sean Jacobs (eds), Encyclopedia of South Africa:
"Union of South Africa 1910-1948"
"Apartheid 1948-1994"

Feb 15 **The Liberation Legacy**

Watch (in class) and discuss the documentary film "Behind the Rainbow" directed by Jihan el Tahri.

Readings

Frederick Cooper, Chapter 6 ("The late decolonizations: Southern Africa 1975, 1979, 1994")

Douglas Foster, "Jacob's Ladder," The Atlantic, June 2009,
<http://bit.ly/wBiy2F>

Feb 22 **Guest Lecture by Meron Tesfamichael (Political Science, PhD candidate)**

Monday, Feb 20, President's Day, Holiday.

Feb 29 **The Politics of the Nation and Belonging**

Readings:

Mahmood Mamdani, "The Invention of the Indigene," London Review of Books, Vol. 33 No. 2 · 20 January 2011, pp.31-33

Jim Brennan, "Blood Enemies: exploitation and urban citizenship in the nationalist political thought of Tanzania," Journal of African History, (2006), 47 : pp 389-413.

Michael Neocosmos, "From Foreign Natives to Native Foreigners: Explaining Xenophobia in PostApartheid South Africa." CODESRIA. pp. 73-122.

Friday, Feb 17, is last day to drop this class.

March 7 **Globalization**

Watch (in class) and discuss "The Colonial Misunderstanding" directed by Jean Marie Teno.

Readings

James Ferguson, Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order,
“Introduction,” and Chapter 1 [PDF]

March 14 **South Africa and Africa**

Readings

Sean Jacobs. “Reality Television and the Expansion of South African Capital.”
Unpublished Essay.

Moradewun Adejunmobi, “Nollywood, Globalization, and Regional Media
Corporations in Africa.” *Popular Communication*. Vol 9, 2. 2011.

Reading TBA

Midterm Due; Spring break: Mon., Mar. 12–Sun., Mar. 18

March 21 **Read and Discuss the memoir Country of My Skull* by Antjie Krog.**

March 28 **Civil Society and Social Movements**

Readings

Steven Robins, From Revolution to Rights in South Africa. Social Movements,
NGOs and Popular Politics After Apartheid, Selections

April 4 **Guest Lecture by Antina von Schnitzler on “City Politics”**

Readings TBA

April 11 **Madumo* by Adam Ashforth**

April 18 **Media**

Guest Lecture by Mohamed Keita of the Committee to Protect Journalists

Readings TBA

April 25 **Youth Politics I**

Kgebetli Moele, Room 207*

Readings:

May 2 **The Politics of Health**

Guest Lecture TBA

May 9 **Wrap-Up / Last Class Meeting**