RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Topics in African History: Race and Colonialism
(21:510:431)
Spring 2018
Class Time/Location: T 2:30 PM-5:20 pm, Hill 204

Professor: Dr. Habtamu Tegegne
Office: Conklin Hall, 329
Office Hours: T/TR: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
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Office Hours
I am present, during office hours which are scheduled for you, to talk about any questions, or concerns regarding the course. Take advantage of these opportunities.

Course Description

“Race and Colonialism” is a history of South Africa from the seventeenth through twentieth centuries emphasizing social, political, and economic change. It pays particular attention to colonial encounter, white political and economic hegemony, land alienation, African nationalism, and democratization.

Two major themes and concerns inform the course—race and colonialism and the relations between the two. The course sees South African history as dominated by European colonial powers, by the capitalist economy, which originated in the West, and by racial ideology, which has its origin in Western cultural and intellectual traditions. It traces the impact of European colonial domination through the era of the formal racial regime of apartheid to the post-apartheid era, in which dominance is primarily economic and cultural. The course will explore how colonialism and the idea of race created institutions, which, in turn, affect the relationships between colonists and indigenous peoples, between classes and other social groups within South Africa, and between individuals. It treats colonialism and race, by and large, as economic and political phenomena with consequent social and cultural effects. The course views both colonialism and race as inherently dynamic and therefore emphasizes both change and development.

History 431 equally sees South African history as characterized by African resistance to colonial and racial domination and by the interaction between African and European cultures. It pays special attention to African resistance to apartheid and South Africa’s complex transition to democracy in the post-apartheid era. The works selected for reading and discussions represent the various approaches and methodologies used to interpret and conceptualize South African history.

Learning Goals: History 431 seeks to:
- encourage the development of critical thinking and of writing skills.
- introduce students to basic concepts in the study of south African history
• provide them with a basic historical outline of South African history since the 17th century

Instructional format combines lecture and discussion with audiovisual and electronic aids.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Grading in the course will be based on an evaluation of student performance in the term paper, class attendance, participation in discussion and exams. Points will be available as follows:

- Final Exam: 30%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Participation in discussion: 25%
- Term Paper: 15%
- Class Attendance: 5%

Grading Scale

In the final determination of the letter grades, I will use “+”. Grading for the course will be as follows:

- A grades (90-100);
- B grades (80-89);
- C grades (70-79);
- D grades (60-69); and
- F grade (below 60).

EVALUATION DETAILS

Attendance (5%)

**ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED – and rewarded**, since active engagement in class will contribute significantly to your final grade. I will take attendance every week. One unexcused absence is acceptable. If you miss class more than once for reasons such as illness and family emergency, you need to produce a document explaining your absence. You will lose 1% of your attendance and participation grade every time you miss class without a valid reason. Five [5] consecutive, unexcused, absences will result in failure in this course. Take note also that a total of eight [8] excused and unexcused absences will result in failure in this course.

Participation (20%)

The second half of our class meetings will be devoted primarily to discussions of each week’s assigned readings. It is very important to come to class having read the required materials to be able to engage in discussions. Take notes as you read the textbooks and other assigned materials. You have to convince me that you have read the assigned materials for each week to earn the participation grade by actively participating in discussions. Good participation is displayed by comments, reflections and questions that are relevant to and informed by the assigned readings. Discussion questions will be posted to the course website in advance of class meeting. The
questions will guide your reading and our class discussion. Also, during discussion bring to class the reading materials for each week. The discussion, along with the lecture, will provide you with the opportunities to analyze, synthesize and evaluate the material and engage with your classmates.

**Term Paper (15% of the total) Due** Tuesday, March 27

There is one assigned paper for this course which is 15% of your course grade. This is the exciting/fun part of the course. The term paper writing guideline will be given in the course of the semester. Each student will write a well-polished and argued research paper of 7 pages in length.

Term papers may address any topic covered by the course. The topics need to be approved by me. The paper must be based on both primary and secondary sources. Your paper must utilize **AT LEAST** two [2] primary sources and five [5] secondary sources. Of the secondary sources, one must be an article published in a peer reviewed academic journal. When you choose a research topic, be sure to choose well. That is make sure that you can find sufficient number of sources on the topic of your chose. If you find a topic poorly documented, choose another one on which you can find ample material.

The instructor of this course assumes that you know what primary and secondary sources are. If you are unsure about what makes a source primary source, ask me! You may also wish to consult the following site to learn more about the characteristic of a primary source: [http://www.archives.gov/education/research/history-in-the-raw.html](http://www.archives.gov/education/research/history-in-the-raw.html). If you do not know where to locate primary sources, go to ask questions at the library.

**Late Policy**

Papers should be submitted on the official, syllabus stated, due date. In addition, please note, submission of a term paper is course requirement. Failure to submit it, regardless of total points accrued elsewhere, will result in an “I” grade for the course. **Five points** will be deducted for each day your term paper is late. No assignments will be accepted after two days past their deadlines for any credit. In other words, if your paper is late by 2 days, you automatically receive a zero and a failure in the course. You may only ask for an extension at least 48 hours before the due date and only if you have a valid reason and valid documentation. Doctor’s notes that are dated either more than 24 hours after the onset of illness or after the due date will not be accepted. Even if you have obtained a doctor’s note, you will be penalized until the day I receive your doctor’s note. Once again, late papers will not be accepted for any credit if your paper is late by 2 days without any documented valid excuse.

**Exams (55%)**

The midterm exam will be held on Tuesday, March 6. The final exam will be held on Tuesday, May 8. Students are required to take the exams based on the schedule indicated in the course syllabus. The final exam must be taken based on the university official final exam schedule (May
8 at 3pm-6pm). You may only ask for taking the midterm exam on a date different from the
official (syllabus-stated) day at least 36 hours before the due date and only if you have a valid
reason and documentation. The term paper and the exams are course requirements. Despite the
total points you earned in other assignments, failure to submit the term paper or unexcused
absence from any of the exams will result in overall failure in the course.

Exam and Paper Due Dates:

Midterm Exam: Tuesday, March 6
Term Paper: Tuesday, March 27
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 8

Copyright

Lecture notes, slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments developed for this course
are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for
student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination outside of the course. Posting,
selling and providing course material to third-party websites violates an instructor’s intellectual
property rights, and the American Copyright Law. Failure to follow these instructions violates
the university’s Code of Student Conduct, and will result in disciplinary measures.

COURSE WEBSITE

Blackboard is our best means of communication. You will need access to the website in order to
complete some of the readings, to download assignments, lectures, and other relevant files.

Decorum

I value and welcome all kinds of comments and opinions in discussion and lecture sessions. Feel
free to express your opinion in a way which is professional and does not offend anyone. My
simple course rule is that we respect each other. Avoid any rude, or inappropriate comments and
disruptive activity. Arrive promptly and remain in classroom for the ENTIRE lecture or discussion.
Turn off all cell phones and other noisy devices during class sessions.

Disruptive Activities

You have the right to be in class, but take note also that you have the obligation to respect the
right of others to be in class and refrain from any disruptive activity. A disruptive activity as
stated in the Student Code of Conduct include “[e]ngaging in classroom conduct prohibited by
the faculty member or in violation of the law or University policy.” Texting and walking in to
classroom late and leaving classroom during discussion and lecture is unacceptable and very
disruptive. You need to respect the course rules stated in the syllabus and conduct yourself
within the bounds of the University Student Code of Conduct. Here is the link to the code:
http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/disciplinary-processes/university-code-of-student-conduct/.

Accommodation
Rutgers adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The university will provide academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability that affects your academic performance be sure to register with the Office of Disability Services and contact me early in the first week of the semester. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form). For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973)353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

**Plagiarism**

You are expected to follow the student guideline concerning academic honesty and conduct. All work must be your own. If you have questions about plagiarism, you can see me. Plagiarism is a serious offence and is punishable, under the university code of conduct. Any instance of plagiarism will result in failure in this course. There is a very good statement on plagiarism on the American Historical Association's webpage. The American Historical Association's definition of plagiarism can be found at: [http://historians.org/governance/pd/Curriculum/plagiarism_defining.htm](http://historians.org/governance/pd/Curriculum/plagiarism_defining.htm). Be sure to read it carefully and closely. For a full discussion of Rutgers University’s policies regarding academic integrity consult the following website: [http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/oas/ai](http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/oas/ai). According to the RU Academic integrity policy:

‘Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course.’

As stated in the academic integrity policy, some common instances of plagiarism are:

• Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.

• Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one’s own words another person’s written words or ideas as if they were one’s own.

• Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.

• Incorporating into one’s work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other non-textual material from other sources without proper attribution.
**Required Texts**

There are two required books for this course:


Additional articles and chapters will be placed on course reserve. All of the required reading for the course is contained in the two books, the readings on course reserve, and the class notes.

**The journal articles are available via the Rutgers library website (JSTOR).**

**SCHEDULE**

Below is the course schedule that we will follow in the course of the semester. The schedule is subject to revision. We might drop, add, or exchange readings according to our specific interests.

**Week 1, T, January 16:** Introduction to the course and South African History

**Required:** Syllabus.


**Week 2, T, January 23:** Early Encounter and the Birth of a Violent Frontier (1652-1800)


**Recommended:**; Iris Berger, “Bitter Almond Hedges,” Colonization, Slavery and Servitude,” in *South Africa in World History* (Oxford, 2009), Chap 2 (22-38); Shula Marks, “Khoisan Resistance to the Dutch in the Seventeenth Centuries,” *The Journal of*

Week 3, T, January 30: Slavery and Cape Society


Week 4, T, February 6: Migrations and State Building, 1836-1856

Required: Crais and McClendon, The South Africa Reader; 55-63; 66-85; HSA, Chapter 3.


Week 5, T, February 13: Dispossessions and Socioeconomic Restructuring


Week 6, T, February 20: Shaka: Images and Realities


Week 7, T, February 27: Nationalism, Race, and the South Africa War

**Required:** Crais and McClendon, *The South Africa Reader*, 146-195; HSA, Chapter 4.


**Week 8, T, March 6:** The Foundations of Apartheid

**Required:** Crais and McClendon, *The South Africa Reader*, 197-239; HSA, Chapter 5.


**Week 9, T, March 13:** Spring Recess

**Week 10, T, March 20:** Racial Entrenchment and Urban Apartheid


**Week 11, T, March 27:** ‘Bantustans’ and Segregation in comparative focus


**Term Paper due**

**Week 12, T, April 3:** African Nationalism

**Required:** Crais and McClendon, *The South Africa Reader*, 279-324, 357-370; HSA, Chapter 7.


**Week 13, T, April 10:** Dismantling Apartheid (1985-1994)


**Week 14, T, April 17:** Mandela’s South Africa (1994-1999)

**Required:** Crais and McClendon, *The South Africa Reader*, 470-508; HSA, Chapter 9.


**Week 15, T, April 25:** Currents: Legacy of Apartheid

**Required:** Crais and McClendon, *The South Africa Reader*, 515-581; HSA, Chapter 10 Review, Evaluation and Valediction

**The final exam is on May 8 at 3 pm-6pm.**
Contract

By returning to class on Thursday, January 23 after the first meeting and signing this document, I acknowledge that I have heard, read, understand, and agree to respect and follow the policies and expectations of the course.

Name Printed________________________

Name Signed________________________