



South Africa

Multiculturalism and Human Rights

Credits 16

Program Base Cape Town

Language Study Xhosa

Homestays Cape Town: Langa Township, 4 weeks; Bo-Kaap, 1 week; Stellenbosch, 1 week

Rural Visit/Homestay Western Cape, 1 week

Educational Excursions Johannesburg, Stellenbosch, and various destinations in the eastern part of the Western Cape

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites None

Multiculturalism and Human Rights Seminar

AFRS 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English, with required readings, examining the current sociopolitical debates surrounding South Africa's multicultural society in the context of the country's history of colonialism and conquest, slavery and oppression, and apartheid and racism. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the University College in Cape Town, Stellenbosch University, and the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA). Lectures and discussions for this course generally include the following topics:

Politics and Human Rights

Precolonial and colonial history; slavery and its legacy; land expropriation and development of ethnic homelands; the landscape of apartheid; racial classification and the solidification of racial identities; resistance to apartheid including Black consciousness, military struggle, and the mobilization of youth; forced removals and the fragmentation of community; land tenure and indigenous land claims.

Multiculturalism and Social Change

Race and racism; oral testimony and the recovery of memory; collective guilt and responsibility; truth telling, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and nation healing; xenophobia; crisis in education; gender inequality; structural inequalities and social justice; Kohekohe and indigenous rights; crime, youth, and gangs; destigmatizing HIV/AIDS; youth and youth culture; social identities in transformation; grassroots activism and the work of nongovernmental organizations.

Governance, Politics, and the Constitution

The South African Bill of Rights and the Constitution of 1996; affirmative action and employment equity; educational reform; health sector reform; contemporary politics and the state of democracy in the nation.

Educational Excursions

The program includes educational excursions to Johannesburg, Stellenbosch, and Western Cape province including visits to rural areas.

Rural Visit

To afford direct knowledge of rural life, participants live for one week in a rural setting in the Western Cape. Village conditions are basic, frequently with no electricity or running water, and provide an invaluable opportunity to learn from rural South Africans.

Intensive Language Study: Xhosa

XHOS 1000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Emphasis on beginning speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. In addition, students receive introductory oral Afrikaans instruction.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a field journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Cape Town or in another approved location appropriate to the project. Sample topic areas: equity in education; affirmative action issues; the role of Afrikaans in a multilingual society; Xhosa women in contemporary South African society; socioeconomic realities of HIV/AIDS; student politics and university life; hate speech, racism, and freedom of expression; the role of

religion in social change; the police, law, and social justice; microenterprise and the new South Africa; individual versus group identity.

Homestay

This program features several homestays designed to introduce students firsthand to much of South Africa's cultural diversity: four weeks with Xhosa-speaking families; one week with families in the rural Western Cape; one week with bilingual Afrikaans- and English-speaking families in central Cape Town; and one week with families in Stellenbosch.

Exploring Complex Questions

Archbishop Desmond Tutu coined the term "Rainbow Nation" to describe the new democratic South Africa, a country of 47 million people, 33 ethnic groups, and 11 official languages. The image connotes harmony within diversity, but also raises complex questions, including: How does the country manage its brutal history of colonialism, slavery, and apartheid? Can a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, affirmative action policies, and an ultraprogressive constitution create an effective multicultural society? Is South Africa moving toward its constitutional goals of a nonracist and nonsexist society? Cape Town, a former slave trade port and current multicultural hub emerging from the deep divisions of apartheid, is the setting as students explore the realities and the potential for positive social change.