

# South Africa

## Multiculturalism and Human Rights

Explore issues of multiculturalism, ethnicity, and identity in the context of South Africa, from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

## Coursework

### Multiculturalism and Human Rights Seminar

AFRS 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students examine 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.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *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 the Western Cape province including visits to rural areas.

### 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

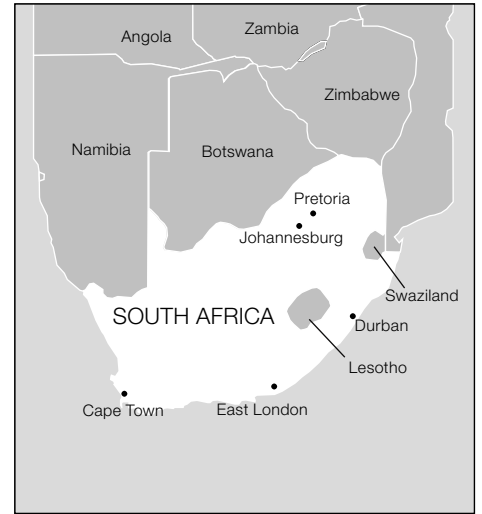
ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

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;



**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

**Other Accommodations** Small hotels and hostels

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** None

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.

*“The homestays, by far, were my favorite part of the program! It is such an incredible way to learn about the many South African cultures ... firsthand at the same time as you’re learning about them in a classroom setting.”*

CLAIRE OATEY, Whitman College