

History of South Africa
History 100.746
Fall 2006

Professor: Pier M. Larson

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 1-3

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Meeting Place: History Department Emeriti Room, 313 Gilman Hall

Meeting Time: Tuesdays, 10-12

Scope and Purpose

This is a graduate reading course in the history of South Africa designed to introduce you to some of the recent trends in historical writing on South Africa. We will read and discuss significant contributions to South African history published (very loosely!) during the last decade. Works cover the period from about 1750 to the present day. This is not a comprehensive survey of South African History, but a survey of recent scholarship and trends in historical research. The last book is not, strictly speaking, an historical work, but grapples with a number of important issues (surrounding health) that are very important in Southern Africa today.

Coursework

1. Weekly informal papers. You should prepare an informal paper each week based on the week's assigned reading. The paper should discuss the major arguments of the work, assess its strengths and weaknesses, and raise questions for discussion. Use the paper as the basis for your contribution in course discussions and leave it with the professor at the end of the seminar. One page, single spaced, is probably sufficient, but you may write more if you desire.
2. Each participant will be expected to open the discussion on two separate weeks by an approximately five-minute presentation summarizing the contents of their informal paper.
3. A major written work of some 25 pages or more. This can be tailored to your interests and graduate program in consultation with the professor and will require additional reading and research. You will be asked to make an oral presentation to the course in the last weeks based on your work. The paper will be submitted to the professor at the end of the semester. Options include an historiographical essay covering some topic of South African history that interests you. You may use the professor's reading list in South African history as a springboard for identifying books and interests. You may also engage in a primary research project of some sort, or some other project you can propose to the professor that fits with your interests and graduate program.

Required Books

These are listed below and are on print reserve at MSEL. They are NOT available in the Johns Hopkins University Bookstore. You will be able to acquire most of the books (with the exceptions, perhaps, of Ross and Newton-King) much more inexpensively from internet vendors of used books. A useful searching tool for used books is www.bookfinder.com. Amazon.com often has a wide selection of used books. If you do not plan to purchase a book, you may consult (or photocopy it) at MSEL print reserve or acquire it from a surrounding library. Please let the professor know if you are having difficulty accessing a book.

Readings & Schedule

September 12

- Introduction & introductions.

September 19

- Ross, Robert. *Status and Respectability in the Cape Colony, 1750-1870*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

September 26

- Newton-King, Susan. *Masters and Servants on the Cape Eastern Frontier, 1760-1803*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

October 3

- Magubane, Zine. *Bringing the Empire Home: Race, Class, and Gender in Britain and Colonial South Africa*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

October 10

- Etherington, Norman. *The Great Treks: The Transformation of Southern Africa, 1815-1854*. Harlow, U.K.: Longman, 2001.

October 17

- Peires, Jeffrey B. *The Dead Will Arise: Nongqawuse and the Great Xhosa Cattle-Killing Movement of 1856-7*. Johannesburg and Bloomington, Ill.: Ravan Press and Indiana University Press, 1989.

October 24

- Hamilton, Carolyn. *Terrific Majesty: The Powers of Shaka Zulu and the Limits of Historical Invention*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998.

October 31

- Guy, Jeff. *The Destruction of the Zulu kingdom: The Civil War in Zululand, 1879-1884*. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press, 1994.

November 7

- Keegan, Timothy J. *Rural Transformations in Industrializing South Africa: The Southern Highveld to 1914*. Basingstoke, U.K.: Macmillan Press, 1987.

November 14

- Moodie, T. Dunbar. *Going for Gold: Men, Mines, and Migration*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994.

November 21

- McClendon, Thomas V. *Genders and Generations Apart: Labor Tenants and Customary Law in Segregation-Era South Africa, 1920s to 1940s*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2003.

November 28

- Dubow, Saul. *Scientific Racism in Modern South Africa*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

December 5

- Livingston, Julie. *Debility and Moral Imagination in Botswana*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2005.