

SOUTH AFRICA

Religion, Justice and Reconciliation

BOSTON COLLEGE 2017 SUMMER COURSE

About the Course

This course is meant for students interested in how religion, spirituality, and ethics can contribute to reconciliation, peacemaking, racial justice, gender equality, eco-justice, and social empowerment. It examines the contributions of many religious communities—Christian, Islamic, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist—to the promotion of human rights, racial justice, and social reconciliation in South Africa.

- **Class sessions:** lectures, discussions, guest speakers, site visits and cultural excursions from our base in three different cities: Pretoria, Durban, and Cape Town.
- **Topics:** apartheid and its resistance movements; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; responsible tourism; gender equality; refugees, migrants, and xenophobia; forgiveness, trauma, and healing; HIV/AIDS; religious pluralism; political violence, personal forgiveness, and peacemaking; economic justice and empowerment
- **Course Requirements:** assigned reading, daily journal and reflection piece, class participation, and a final research paper.
- **Excursions:** We will regularly visit sites that connect our coursework with the lived experience of South Africans present and past. Among the highlights: Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, Robben Island Prison, District 6 Museum National Historic Site in Cape Town, and numerous religious communities and organizations in each of our three home cities.

Instructors:



Stephen Pope
Professor of
Theology



Erik Owens
Associate Professor of the Practice in
Theology and International Studies;
Associate Director, Boisi Center for
Religion and American Public Life



Program Details

2017 Dates and Locations:

Pretoria: July 22-31

Durban: August 1-6

Cape Town: August 7-19



Course Credit:

Three credits at Boston College as a major/minor elective course in Theology (as THEO 1226), International Studies (as INTL 1226), or African & African Diaspora Studies (as AADS 1226). We also expect it will count for the "cultural diversity" core.

Program Costs:

In 2016 the tuition for this course was approximately \$2,400, and the program fee of \$3,000 covered housing, in-country travel, and all meals (but not airfare to/from South Africa). Costs may rise slightly in 2017.

Applications accepted:

October 15, 2016 to February 5, 2017

