Sociology 39
African World Perspectives
Fall 2011
T/TH 9-10:20
Campion 300

Prof. Zine Magubane
McGuinn 418
2-8984
magubane@bc.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3; Tuesdays 10:30-12; and by appointment

TA:
Liam Martin
McGuinn 410
Email: martinyb@bc.edu
Office Hours:

Course Description

This course examines some of the key events in contemporary African society such as apartheid in South Africa, genocide in Rwanda, and the conflict in Darfur, Sudan.

As a core course, the class will include the following:

Perennial Questions: We begin the course by examining apartheid in South Africa and ask the question: How have Africans managed to maintain cultural integrity and build societies in spite of the impact of racism? We move on to look at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa with an aim to understand: what is the nature of human freedom and what are the limits of our ability to withstand oppression and forgive?

We then move on to look at genocide in Rwanda. We will seek to understand the impact of history on culture and behavior. Specifically we will be trying to understand what impact politics and economics have on how identities are created, re-created, and destroyed.

We conclude by looking into looking at the conflict in Sudan, trying to understand both the global and local forces that create and perpetuate such situations of poverty and violence.

Cultural Diversity: Many of the readings and perspectives of this course come from African people—rich and poor, urban and rural, male and female, black and white, old and young, gay and straight. Through engaging with their words and their lives you will come to appreciate the incredible diversity of opinions, experiences, and perspectives that African people have.

Historical Perspective: No study of Africa can proceed without looking at the historical events that produced the wars, famines, and poverty that are such an intrinsic part of life on the continent today. We will look at the relationship between larger socio-historical events such as the slave trade,
colonialism, and the Cold War and the trajectory of individual African lives. We will also look at specific events (e.g. the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the conflict in Darfur) as manifestations of larger socio-historical trends.

Methodology: The books we will read represent a variety of sociological perspectives and research methodologies. We will examine the ways in which various theoretical perspectives (Marxist, liberal, free market) shape the worldviews of our authors.

Writing component: Your essay will be an opportunity to compare and contrast the different ways in which African peoples have dealt with the challenges posed by colonialism, racism, poverty, and underdevelopment; and the ways in which the world has responded to Africa’s challenges through various models of engagement and intervention.

Creating a personal philosophy: The aim of this course is to help you develop a greater awareness of and appreciation for how diverse life in Africa really is. You will be challenged to examine what stereotypes you previously held about life in Africa and to begin to think about Africans differently and appreciate the many ways in which Africans hold values that are both similar to and different from the values you hold. You will be encouraged to reexamine your role as an individual and what societal challenges help and hinder you own efforts to create change.

Required Texts

- P. Gourvetich. We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories From Rwanda.
- Mamdani, Mahmood. Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics, and the War on Terror.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due Dates:

- Test 1: October 20
- Test 2: November 29
- Paper: December 9
- Final Exam: December 16 at 12:30
TOPIC I: APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA

September 6:
- Introduction

September 8:
- In Class Film “The Bible and the Gun”

September 13:

September 15:
- In Class Film: “This Magnificent African Cake”

September 20:
- “South Africa: From Settlement to Union” by Ernest Harsch in The Anti-Apartheid Reader, p. 47-63 [electronic reserve]
- “The Post-Colonial State” by Donald DeNoon in The Anti-Apartheid Reader, p. 64-70 [electronic reserve]

September 22
- In Class Film: “The Rise of Nationalism”
- Donald Denoon, “Internal Opposition,” in The Anti-Apartheid Reader, p. 70-75 [electronic reserve]

September 27
September 29

- “Aspects of Repression,” in *The Anti-Apartheid Reader*, p. 91-94 [electronic reserve]

October 4

- Film: “The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela” (part 1) [shown in class]

October 6

- Film: “The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela” (part 2) [shown in class]

October 11


October 13


October 18

- Part 10, “Talking With the Enemy”

October 20: Test 1

**TOPIC II: THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISION**

October 25:

- Film: “Facing the Truth” (Part 1) [shown in class]
- Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, *A Human Being Died That Night* (Ch.2-4)
October 27:

- Film “Facing the Truth” (Part 2) [shown in class]
- Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. *A Human Being Died That Night* (Ch.5-7)

November 1:

- Antjie Krog, “None More Parted than Us,” in *Country of My Skull*, p. 19-33 [electronic reserve]

**TOPIC III: GENOCIDE IN RWANDA**

November 3:

- P. Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You* Ch. 4-9 and Chapter 11

November 8:

- P. Rusesabagina. *An Ordinary Man*: Ch. 1-5
- Clotilde Twagiramariya “Favours to Give and Consenting Victims’ in *What Women Do in Wartime*, p. 85-100 [electronic reserve]

November 10:

- Film: Ghosts of Rwanda (part 1) [shown in class]
- P. Rusesabagina. *An Ordinary Man*: Ch. 6-11
  - “The Killers” (p. 245-253)
  - “How it was organized” (p. 10-16)
  - “The First Time” (p. 21-27)
  - “A Gang” (p. 28-35)
  - “Apprenticeship” (p. 36-40)
  - “Taste and Distaste” (p. 47-51)

November 15:

- Film: Ghosts of Rwanda (part 2) [shown in class]
  - “Field Work” (p. 60-65)
o “Punishment” (p. 71-76)
 o “Looting” (p. 82-87)
 o “Acquaintances” (p. 119-124)
 o “And God in All This?” (p. 140-147)
 o “Remorse and Regrets” (p. 157-164)
 o “Bargaining for Forgiveness” (p. 195-201)
 o “Pardons” (p. 202-207)
 o “Hatred of the Tutsis” (p. 216-221)

November 17:
- M. Mamdani, “Political Reform After Genocide,” in _When Victims Become Killers_, p. 264-282 [electronic reserve]

November 22:
- In Class Film: “My Neighbor, My Killer”

November 29:
- Test 2

**TOPIC IV: THE CRISIS IN DARFUR, SUDAN**

December 1:
- “Journey to Darfur”
- M. Mamdani. _Saviors and Survivors_: Pp. 104-108, Ch. 5

December 6:
- M. Mamdani. _Saviors and Survivors_: Part III “Rethinking the Darfur Crisis”

December 8:
- Final Paper Due
- M. Mamdani. _Saviors and Survivors_: Introduction, Ch. 1, 2
- Please view a lecture Mamdani gave at Boston College at: http://frontrow.bc.edu/program/hollenbach1/

Final: December 16 at 12:30