

HISTORY 4645G
RESISTANCE TO APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICAN & GLOBAL HISTORY
| Winter 2024|

Instructor: **Prof. Ruramisai Charumbira**

Email: **rcharumb@uwo.ca**

This is a draft syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Invocation: To the Sun, in whose tight embrace we and other planets travel the Cosmos free of charge, we are grateful. To the Earth, the ground of our being, we are grateful. To all fellow creatures on this planet, on land, in the air, and waters, we are grateful; we apologize that our human ways have ravaged your ways of life on this planet. To all our personal and collective ancestors, we are grateful. We are grateful to, and acknowledge the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, among others, whose traditional territories are where this course takes place.

Course Description: Sam'kele, Mauya, Welcome! This course is a study of ordinary people's extraordinary agency and resilience in the face of state sanctioned terror in South Africa—and to related degree in today's Namibia, and Zimbabwe. The course highlights the national, regional, and international history and politics of a nation in the grip of legalized oppression beginning in 1948, the same year the United Nations ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris, France. The course does not, of course, cover everything; instead, it aims for a deeper understanding of legalized white supremacy on one hand, and on the other, an African, and a multicultural and multifaceted resistance movement against apartheid in South Africa, Southern Africa, Africa, and internationally.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 course in History at the 2200-level or above.



Course Syllabus

The course's major objectives are:

- ④ To introduce students to Southern African history through the study of South Africa
- ④ To hone the historian's craft of identifying secondary and primary sources

- To practice the historian's craft of writing through the rigorous interpretation of sources.

Please note: This is a reading and writing intensive course; those students interested in honing their critical thinking, reading, and writing skills will find this a rewarding course.

Methods of Evaluation

- ◆ 20% Class Prep., Participation, and Attendance
- ◆ 50% Short Essays at 10% each
- ◆ 30% Final Essay

Absences and Late Assignments:

- Students with an approved absence from an in-class assignment will be required to write a make-up test. The make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original assignment. For the university's policies on this, see the following: [Absence & Academic Consideration](#), the university's policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#), and the Department of History's own [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#), for department procedures and requirements.
- Students must attend at least ten of our twelve seminar meetings in order to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments.
- Students must submit all course assignments in order to pass the course.
- Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling.

Course Materials (*this is only a sample, please don't purchase anything yet*): Books will be available through the Weldon Library as eBooks and hard copies or via the Western Bookstore. Feature and documentary films are part of course material and are freely available for streaming through your Western Library Account.

- Biko (and Aelred Stubbs, ed.), *I Write What I Like*
- Ngcobo, *And They Didn't Die*
- Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy: An Autobiography*
- Madikizela-Mandela, *491 DAYS: PRISONER NUMBER 1323/69*
- Gordimer, *The Conservationist*
- Ramphele, *Across Boundaries: The Journey of a South African Woman...*
- Noah, *Born a Crime*
- Gobodo-Madikizela, *A Human Being Died That Night*
- Episodes of the Documentary Film Series: Have You Heard from Johannesburg available for streaming via your Western Library Account.

Course Schedule and Readings

- Week 01 – January 08:** Introduction to Course and South African Overview
- Week 02: Overview and Timeline of Colonialism in Southern Africa
Journal #1 due
- Week 03: The Roots of Resistance to Settler Colonialism—Dutch & British
- Week 04: The ilLegality of Apartheid, Structural and Systemic Racism
- Week 05: [*Wathint' Abafazi, Wathinti' Mbokodo*!](#): The Women Will Not be Bowed
Journal #2 due
- Week 06: Land Dispossession, Reservations, Bantustans
- Week 07: February 18-25:** Spring Reading Week
- Week 08: The Resistance in Prison and in Exile: Global Racism and Resistance
Journal #3 due
- Week 09: The Militant and Ambivalent Youth
- Week 10: *Shosholozza...Stimela!* The Music of the Resistance
Journal #4 due
- Week 11: *Ubuntu* and The Promotion of Truth and Reconciliation
Journal #5 due
- Week 12: *Thatha Kamera!* Iconic Images of Resistance
- Week 13: Final Essay Due (in class unless otherwise noted)

Additional Statements

Communication policies: I am available via email and office hours in-person or on Zoom.

Classroom behavior: Respect is important, both in and outside the classroom. In the classroom it includes waiting your turn, being respectful of different points of view on different issues and leading with heart and mind. The classroom interaction includes watching films as well as close reading of texts electronically and in print.

Use of electronic devices: There will be short breaks during the three hours of class time. To that end, please keep your devices in silent (without vibration) mode, or better, in airplane mode and store until breaktime and after class.

Use of generative AI tools: The use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be properly documented and cited. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.