

History 4645F
Resistance to Apartheid in South African and Global History
Fall 2025 | 2025– 26

Instructor: Ruramisai Charumbira, Associate Professor

Email: rcharumb@uwo.ca

Office: Department of History, Lawson Hall 1220

Office Hours: Via Zoom and by Appointment

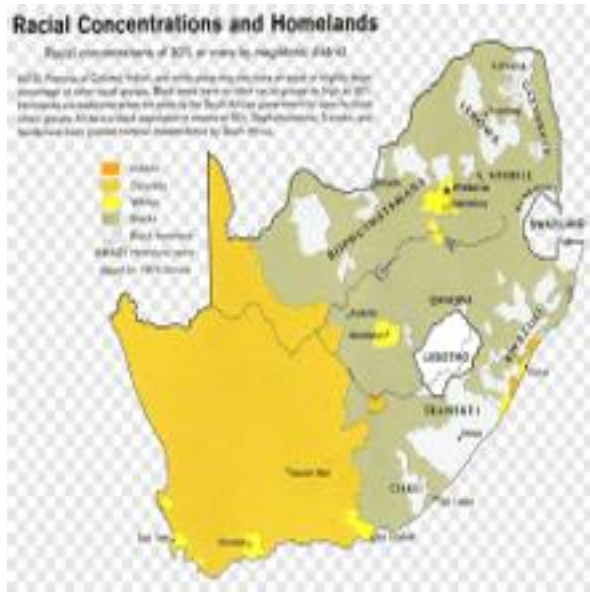
This is a DRAFT outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

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 are ravaging your ways of life and that our awakening to the climate crises returns us to our place of belonging as one among many keystone species. To our personal and collective ancestors, we are grateful, and we shall right the wrongs. We are grateful to, and acknowledge the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, on whose traditional Dish with One Spoon Treaty Territory is where this course takes place. And so, it is.

Course Description:

Sam'kele, Mauya, Welcome! This course is a study of ordinary people's moral philosophy, their agency and resilience in the face of state sanctioned terror in South Africa—and to a related degree in Namibia and Zimbabwe. The course highlights the individual and collective responses and actions thereby contextualizing the national, regional, and global history and politics of a nation in the grip of legalized racial oppression beginning in 1948. That same year, the United Nations ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris, France, while the Afrikaner-led government went in the opposite direction in choosing apartheid.. 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, a multicultural and multifaceted resistance movement in South Africa, southern Africa, Africa, and internationally.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in third year or above, any module.



Course Syllabus

The course's major objectives are to:

- a) To introduce students to southern African history through the study of South Africa
 - *students will learn this history from an African standpoint and practices.
- b) Refine the historian's craft of identifying and studying primary and secondary sources
 - *this will include individual and teamwork; teams will change over time.
- c) Practice the historian's craft of writing through the rigorous interpretation of sources, and self-reflexivity.
 - *this includes individual writing and team writing to simulate life experiences.

NB: The professor reserves the right to revise these depending on the class composition and needs. Also, this is a reading and writing intensive course; those students interested in honing their critical thinking, reading, and writing skills will find this to be a rewarding course.

Methods of Evaluation

All Assignments are Due In Class as Printouts (unless otherwise noted)

Students will receive detailed and clear instructions on individual and team assignments based on the course material. A final team assignment based primary source materials and a self-selected theme from the course will have a prompt to guide the team.

Students must submit all course assignments and not miss more than two classes in order to pass the course. See more below

- * **20% - Attendance and Active Individual & Group Participation.**
 - This is an interactive course, please see below for more details if you miss class.
- * **20% - Team Work: Individual Essay and Peer Evaluation Report**
 - This is a two-part assignment. Part I (10%), you will write a short essay on three primary sources of your choice. Part II (10%), you will be assigned a peer's essay to read, evaluate, and write a report on. Your own essay, and your peer report of another will be graded together. Prompts and guides will be provided.
- * **30% - Individual Essays @ 10% Each**
 - These essays are based on a series of 2-3 weeks' reading each. Prompts will be posted on Brightspace and reviewed in class at the beginning and 2 weeks before each essay is due.
- * **30% - Final Team Project, Class Debate.**
 - Teams will be assigned by the ninth week and a prompt/guidelines provided. This is research-based and teams will be assessed on the quality of their research document and their delivery on the day.

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Advising.

Please see

https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

Absences and Late Assignments:

The structure and delivery of the course necessitates in-person attendance. Life does happen, and to accommodate that, you can miss up to a maximum of two classes. Three or more means this portion of your grade will lose half its value. All matters physical or mental health accommodations are handled through the office of Academic Advising. Missed essay deadlines will be handled per History Department policy and overall Social Science policy.

You must complete all course assignments in order to pass this course.

Course Materials

These will be available through the Western Bookstore for purchase and on loan through the Weldon Library. The Documentary Film Series Have You Heard from Johannesburg is required and an integral part of the course materials and is freely available to you via Western Libraries, login via your Library Account. NB: The course readings will be assigned to be read individually and in teams.

This is a sample of potential readings, please see final syllabus for texts to buy

Thompson, *A History of South Africa*, Fourth Edition

Biko (and Aelred Stubbs, ed.), *I Write What I Like*

Ngcobo, *And They Didn't Die*

Noah, *Born a Crime*

Gordimer, *July's People*

Gobodo-Madikizela, *A Human Being Died That Night*

Course Schedule and Readings

TBA

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.

Important Academic Dates for 2025-26.

2025

Description	Date
Labour Day	September 1
Fall/Winter Term classes begin	September 4
Last day to add a full course, or a first-term half course	September 12
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	September 30
Thanksgiving Holiday	October 13
Autumn Convocation	October 22 - 23
Fall Reading Week	November 1- 9
History make-up midterms	TBA
Last day to withdraw from a full (1.0) course and full-year half (0.5) course resulting in a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty). Course withdrawals after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'F'.	December 1
Fall Term classes end	December 9
Study Days	December 10
Fall term examination period	December 11 - 22

2026

Description	Date
Classes resume	January 5
Last day to add a second-term half course	January 13
Spring Reading Week	February 14 - 22
Family Day	February 16
History make-up midterms	TBA
Last day to withdraw from a second-term half (0.5) course, or a second-term full (1.0) course resulting in a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty). Course withdrawals after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'F'.	March 30
Good Friday	April 3
Easter Sunday	April 5
Winter Term classes end	April 9
Study Days	April 10 - 11
Final examination period	April 12 - 30

This is a DRAFT outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.