

**Political Science 392**  
**The Politics of South Africa through Film and Literature**  
**Prof. Robert Griffiths**

In 1994, South Africa held its first universal elections marking the end of a remarkable transition from apartheid, an institutionalized form of racism, to majority rule. In April, 2009 the country will hold its fourth round of post-apartheid elections, further consolidating its democracy. The focus of this class is on the political development of South Africa as depicted in works of fiction and non-fiction as well as film. The goal of this class is to trace the development of racial segregation and the establishment of the apartheid system and examine the political circumstances that ultimately led to democratic transition and consolidation in South Africa.

After taking this class students will be able to do the following:

- trace the establishment of racial segregation and the apartheid system
- identify the political trends during and after the end of apartheid
- understand the factors that led to political transition in South Africa
- assess South Africa's prospects and the challenges of democratic consolidation.

**Contact Information-** My office is in 222 Graham Building. My office hours are MWF 11-12 and by appointment. My office phone is 256-0518 and my email is rjgriffi@uncg.edu.

**Texts:** *The Mind of South Africa* by Allister Sparks, *And They Didn't Die* by Laretta Ngcobo, *Age of Iron* by J.M. Coetzee, *Mandela: A Critical Life* by Tom Lodge. There will also be a couple of recent journal articles posted on Blackboard. Students are also required to keep up with political affairs, especially the up-coming elections, by regularly reading an online South African newspaper such as the *Mail and Guardian*.

**Method of Instruction and Class Requirements:** This class will consist of both lecture and discussion, with an emphasis on the latter. We will see some films in class but students will also have to view at least one film outside of class. Students are required to submit two essays during the semester. The first essay of 6-8 pages will deal with the period covering the beginning of white settlement and the establishment of apartheid, the second essay of 8-10 pages will deal with the end of the apartheid era, the transition to majority rule, the challenge of democratic consolidation, and the 2009 elections in South Africa. In addition, each student will be responsible for two 2-page summaries and reviews of two of the films. Finally, students will also submit a summary/review of either *and they didn't die* or *Age of Iron*. Electronic submission of assignments is not permitted. Late submissions will be penalized and no assignments will be accepted after the last day of class. The value of these assignments will be: essay 1- 30%, essay 2-35%, film reviews-20%, book review-15%. Class participation is encouraged and may help your final grade. Given the nature of this class, attendance is essential. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices and put them away. If you use a computer to take notes be prepared to show me your notes at any time during class. If I determine that you are using the computer for purposes other than note-taking I will prohibit you from using it in class.

**Reading Assignments:**

**Dutch Settlement to the Establishment of Apartheid.**

1/19- Sparks, Prologue and Chapter 1-2.

1/26- Sparks, Chapters 3-5.

2/2- Sparks, Chapters 6-7.

**The Establishment of Apartheid to the 1960s.**

2/9-2/16-Lodge, chap. 1-4; Ngcobo, chapters 1-9, Sparks, chap. 8-10.

2/23-3/2- Ngcobo, chapters 10-14; Lodge, chapters 5-6; Sparks, chap. 11-12.

**The Turbulent 1970s and 1980s.**

3/16-3/23- Ngcobo, Chapter 15; Coetzee, Chapters 1-2.

3/30- Coetzee, Chapters 3-4, Sparks, chap. 13-14.

4/6- Lodge, Chapter 7.

**Democratic Transition, Consolidation, and the 2009 Elections**

4/13- Lodge, Chapters 8-9, Sparks, chap. 15.

4/20- 5/4- Gumede, "South Africa: Jacob Zuma and the Difficulties of Consolidating South Africa's Democracy; Bassett & Clarke "The Zuma Affair and the Future of Democracy in South Africa," both available on Blackboard.

4/27-5/4- Readings to be determined.