

Political Science 300
The Politics of South Africa through Film and Literature
Spring 2007
Prof. 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. The focus of this class is on the political evolution of South Africa as depicted in works of fiction and non-fiction as well as film. Please note, however, that this is not a film or literature course. Literature and film are the vehicles through which students will gain knowledge and insight into the politics of South Africa. The goal of this class is to trace the development of racial segregation and the establishment of the apartheid system, examine the political circumstances that ultimately led to democratic transition and consolidation in South Africa, and analyze the impact of apartheid's legacy on the issues currently confronting the country.

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
- comprehend the factors that led to political transition in South Africa
- assess South Africa's prospects for meeting the challenges of democratic consolidation.

Office Hours and Contact Information: My office is in 222 Graham Building. Office hours are 1-2 Tues. & Thurs. 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 Lauretta Ngcobo, *Age of Iron* by J.M. Coetzee, *Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela, and *Beyond the Miracle* by Allister Sparks. Students are also required to keep up with political affairs in South Africa by regularly reading an online South African newspaper such as the *Mail and Guardian*. The tentative film line-up includes *Breaker Morant* (1980), *Cry, the Beloved Country* (1995), *Dry White Season* (1989), *Mapantsula* (1989), and *Tsotsi* (2005).

Requirements: The course will consist of some lecture and extensive discussion. Students are required to submit three essays throughout the semester. The first two should be 3-5 pages long while the final essay should be 5-8 pages. The first essay will deal with the period between the establishment of white settlement and the beginning of formal apartheid, the second will deal with the apartheid era, and the third will cover the transition and consolidation period and require research and discussion of a current challenge to democratic consolidation in South Africa. The value of these assignments will be: essay 1- 20%, essays 2&3- 25%. In addition, each student will select three films and submit a 2-3 page summary and review of each film. Each of these will be worth 10% of your grade. Details of these assignments will be included in separate hand-outs. Class participation is encouraged and may help your final grade. Given the nature of this class, attendance is essential.

Revised Reading Assignments:

Dutch Settlement to the Establishment of Apartheid.

1/8/07- Sparks, Prologue and Chapter 1-2.

1/15/07- Sparks, Chapters 3-5.

1/22/07- Sparks, Chapters 6-7, Mandela, Parts 1-2.

The Establishment and Nature of Apartheid.

1/29/07- Mandela, Parts 3-4

2/05/07- Mandela, Parts 5-8.

2/12/07-; Ngcobo, Chapters 1-9; Sparks, Chapters 8-10; .

2/19/07- Ngcobo, Chapters 10-15

From The Turbulent 1970s to Transition.

2/26/07- Sparks, Chapters 11-12; Coetzee, Chapters 1-2.

3/12/07- Coetzee, Chapters 3-4; Sparks, Chapters 13-14.

3/19/07- Mandela Parts 9-10; Sparks, *The Mind of South Africa*, Chapter 15;
Mandela, Part 11.

Democratic Consolidation and the Road Ahead

3/26/07- Sparks, *Beyond the Miracle*, Chapters 1-4.

4/2/07- Sparks, Chapters 5-6.

4/9/07- Sparks, Chapters 7-8.

4/16/07- Sparks, Chapters 9-12.

4/23/07- Sparks, Chapters 13-16.