

Mandela: The Man & His Politics
AFR 374C

University of Texas at Austin
Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Tshepo Masango Chéry
Times & Location: JES A203A
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COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

On December 5, 2013, the world mourned the loss of an international icon: Nelson Mandela. As president of the African National Congress and head of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, he was instrumental in moving the nation toward a multiracial government and majority rule. His story is certainly one that is rooted in South African political history. Yet his life, especially after enduring twenty-seven years of unjust imprisonment, captivated the world. He was revered as a champion of human rights and racial equality. As the former president of South Africa and a recipient of the Nobel peace prize, he became fixed in public consciousness as a remarkable model of supreme tolerance, generosity, grace, and reconciliation. This course relies on the personal and political history of Nelson Mandela to examine the history of modern South Africa. It seeks to unpack the Mandela as a mythical figure by examining some of the key experiences that shaped him as a man, revolutionary, and respected elder statesman. It will draw heavily on an array of primary evidence ranging from Mandela's own writings, to government reports, contemporary newspaper articles and books, as well as popular art, films, and music. It critically traces his development across a range of issues from resistance strategies, gender, Pan-Africanism, multiracialism, and nonviolence in order to give life to one of the most powerful and inspiring stories of the 20th century.

REQUIRED TEXT:

David James Smith, *Young Mandela: The Revolutionary Years* (New York, NY: Little, Brown and Company, 2010) ISBN: 978-0-316-03548-4.

This required text is available at the University Co-op located at 2246 Guadalupe Street.

*Supplemental Course Materials

All other written and visual texts used in this course will be accessible via Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA

Below is a list of all class assignments and the grade distribution that will be used to determine your grades. All assignments for the semester come to a total of 100 points. Late assignments will not accepted.

Assignment	Points
Participation & Attendance	15 points
Quizzes	10 points
1 Short Reflection Papers before the Mid-term	25 points
Midterm Examination	25 points
1 Short Reflection Papers after the Midterm	25 points
Total	100 points

Final Grade Distribution:

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F Below 60
A-	90-93	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66	
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62	

Description of Assignments

Participation & Attendance (Total: 15 points)

African history in a broad sense is very likely unfamiliar and even foreign to you. This means attendance at every class is among the minimum requirements for success. It will be incredibly difficult for you to do well in this class if you do not attend the lectures regularly. Successful students rely on lecture notes alongside the text. Successful students also come to class prepared and ready to actively engage all assigned texts. This requires reading and reflecting on the text as well as being prepared to pose relevant questions, provide comments, and feedback on the reading for each class period. In other words, you must have an active voice in the class. We will employ various strategies to encourage your participation beyond simply speaking-up in class. You can always actively ignite and join discussions via the discussion forum on Canvas. Plan on submitting at least one thoughtful question or comment at least every two weeks to ensure your participation. You are also welcomed and encouraged to use social media to discuss various components of the course (be prepared to share your posts and tweets with your classmates as well as with me). Nevertheless, each student is allowed three unexcused absences during the course of the semester. Each additional (unexcused) absence will result in a 5-point deduction from your final grade.

***Absences Due to Athletics or University Activities**

Any athlete competing for UT on an NCAA or club level team needs to notify me as soon as possible about any absences. Written documentation from the Athletic department will be required for accommodations to be given.

Quizzes (Total: 10 points)

There will be several quizzes that cover major concepts, definitions, and ideas at various moments in the semester (most will be unannounced with the exception of the map quiz). The purpose of these quizzes is to highlight important aspects of the course that will be reflected in both the midterm examination and the take home final examination.

*Map Quiz

All students will be expected to be familiar with the cities, towns and regions, that we will study this semester. The list of all of these categories will be provided early in the semester to get students acclimated to the geography of South Africa.

Short Reflection Papers (Total: 50 points)

Students are required to write a total of four short essays throughout the course of the semester on assigned readings. Two of the papers must be submitted before the midterm and two after the midterm.

These essays MUST:

- (1.) Provide a BRIEF overview of the book.
- (2.) Clearly identify and articulate the major argument(s) or narrative of the text being analyzed.
- (3.) Explain how the text informs, challenges, and/or expands your understanding of the particularities of South African history, by using specific examples and details.
- (4.) Make connections between the text and other course materials (lectures, other readings, documentaries, etc.)

Essays must be a MINIMUM 2 pages (no more than 3 pages) in length, typed (in 12-point font), double-spaced with standard 1" margins. They must also be free of grammatical errors/typos and use proper citation techniques specific to your discipline (if this is unknown, please use parenthetical references similar to MLA-style – consult the Purdue Online Writing Lab for examples <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> or raise your concerns with me in class so that this technique can be briefly reviewed).

Midterm Examination (Total: 25 points)

There will be an in-class midterm exam part way through the semester. We will discuss the format as well as sample questions in class together. *All your answers to this exam must be entirely of your own making. Working with someone else on the exam in any way will be interpreted as academic dishonesty and will be reported.*

NOTE: You will **not** have opportunities for extra credit for borderline grades. Make sure you have earned the necessary points. No changes will be made to a grade unless an incorrect grade was assigned due to a mathematical/mechanical error. I also recommend that students keep a copy of ALL work that I grade and return to them in the event that there is a problem with a student's final grade at the end of the semester.

*Please note that portions of this syllabus may change at the discretion of the instructor but adequate notification will be provided.

COURSE SCHEDULE

As the professor of this course, I reserve the right to deviate or modify parts of this schedule. All changes will include advanced written notice. Please note that all materials with an asterisk are posted on Canvas.

Week 1

1/22/2019-1/24/2019

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Danger of a Single Story"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg>

Trevor Noah, "Trevor Celebrates Nelson Mandela's 100th Birthday: The Daily Show"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOVsDOG6WWw>

Week 2

1/29/2019-1/31/2019

"A Hero, Not a Saint," The Economist, 409, 8866 (2013): 100-102.

"Faces of Africa: Finding Mandela Part I"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJoR-BGCuUc>

Captured, Accused, & Sentenced: The Rivonia Trial

Readings:

James, 3-18.

Week 3

2/5/2019-2/7/2019

The "Troublemaker" from Mvezo: Childhood

Readings:

James, 19-36

Written in Sand: Informal & Formal Education

Readings:

James, 37-56

Week 4

2/12/2019-2/14/2019

Written in Sand: Informal & Formal Education

Readings:

James, 57-70.

Rico Devara Chapman, Student Resistance to Apartheid at the University of Fort Hare: Freedom Now, A Degree Tomorrow (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2016): 7-16.

*** Map Quiz**

Week 5

2/19/2019-2/21/2019

The Price of a Family

Readings:

James, 71-88.

Stephanie Nolen, "Breaking a Taboo, Mandela says AIDS killed son," *Globe & Mail*, January 7, 2005.

<http://go.galegroup.com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/ps/i.do?p=OVIC&u=txshracd2598&id=GALE|A126792798&v=2.1&it=r&sid=summon>

Neo Lekgotla Langa Rammoupi, "The Black Man in a White Man's Court: Mandela at Wits University, South Africa, 1943-1949," Ufamhu African Activist Association, 39, 2 (Spring 2016):

Week 5

2/26/2019-2/28/2019

A New Political Order

Readings:

James, 88-118.

*First Reflection Paper Due (submit on Canvas by 7pm 2/28/2019).

Week 6

3/5/2019-3/7/2019

Family Politics

Readings:

James, 119-163.

***Midterm 3/7/2019**

Week 7

3/12/2019-3/14/2019

"I Married Trouble:" Winnie Madikizela

Reading:

James, 164-195.

Portions of the Documentary *Winnie*. DVD. Directed by Pascale Lamche. Cape Town: South Africa, 2017.

Week 8

3/19/2019-3/21/2019

Spring Break

Week 9

3/26/2019-3/28/2019

Readings:

“The Struggle is My Life”

James, 196-244.

Sisonke Msimang, *Always Another Country: A Memoir of Exile and Home* (2018), 1-40.

Week 10

4/2/2019-4/4/2019

No Peace Without War

Readings:

James, 245-281.

Week 11

4/9/2019-4/11/2019

No Peace Without War

Readings:

James, 282-293.

Readings:

*Selected portion of Truth and Reconciliation Proceedings

Week 12

4/16/2019-4/18/2019

Reaching for Pan-Africanism

Readings:

James, 294-310.

* Second Reflection Paper Due (Submit on Canvas by 7pm 4/18/2019)

Week 13

4/23/2019-4/25/2019

Reaching for Pan-Africanism

Readings:

James, 311-326.

Week 14

4/30/2019-5/2/2019

Notes for Death or Prosperity

Readings:

James, 327-345.

Week 15

5/7/2019-5/9/2019

It Began With Rivonia

Readings:

James, 341-362.

Mandela, the Elder Statesman

Watch Part I & II of Tutu's Tribute to Mandela

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and misrepresenting facts. A full and comprehensive statement about what constitutes academic dishonesty can be found in Appendix C, section 11-802, in the General Information Catalog. Student Judicial Services in the Office of the Dean of Students is responsible for investigating alleged violations and implementing the discipline process.

Statement on Electronic Communication

E-mail is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your e-mail for university and course-related information and announcements. We will also use Canvas—a web-based course management system with password-protected access to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to provide online surveys. You can find support for using Canvas at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8am to 6pm. Please plan accordingly.

I will not respond to emails that ask about information that has been covered in the syllabus, a handout, or otherwise communicated in class.

Statement on Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the

absence. For reference, sections 51.911 and 51.925 of the Texas Education Code relate to absences by students and instructors for observance of religious holy days.

RESOURCES

Please make use of the following centers and resources to gain support in a variety of areas during this semester.

[Counseling and Mental Health Center](#)

<http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>

(512) 471-3515

The Counseling & Mental Health Center (CMHC) offers individual counseling, group therapy, psychiatric services, and telephone counseling.

[Services for Students with Disabilities](#)

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations should get a letter documenting the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to me at start of the course and accommodations needed should be discussed in time. Please remind me of your accommodations five business days prior to an exam or assignment.

[Undergraduate Writing Center](#)

<http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

(512) 471-6222

(512) 475-VERB (Writer's Advice Line)

The Undergraduate Writing Center assists undergraduates with all stages of the writing process.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions. Do not attempt to re-enter a classroom or building without the instructions and or permission of the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

Use of Electronic Devices

You are permitted to use a laptop computer or tablet only if you are using it to take notes or engage in activity pertinent to the course. Using electronics for non-course related purposes will result in a severe lowering of your class participation grade. If you are caught using the computer or device to conduct non-academic related activity, I will ban such devices from the lecture hall.