

South Africa Travel Seminar (EM-339-6)
J-Term 2009
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This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

Description

South Africa was the site of one of the most powerful political and theological movements of the late twentieth century. Home of the historic unfolding of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, proving ground for Mohandas K. Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence, and countless missionary and colonial explorations among the Dutch and British, South Africa is ideal for critical study, reflection and missions work. The Seminar will involve a 10-14 day excursion from Louisville, Kentucky to South Africa, along with brief preparation sessions leading up to the trip. Adeney and Hill will lead a group of students, faculty, pastors, and alums to explore themes of reconciliation, human rights, political theology, and forgiveness. The pilgrimage will involve a theological reflection and missionary component, building a constructive understanding of the relationship between the two. Students are strongly encouraged to participate. *What is happening in the life of the church in a post-apartheid South Africa? What can we learn from South Africa about the Christian language of hope, salvation, justice, and community?* Capetown, Pretoria and/or Johannesburg will be among the primary geographic regions for reflection and travel during the journey.

Through the seminar and missions project, students will be empowered to be agents of reconciliation and to discover the ways in which public theology and missions is an essential component of faithful Christian witness. Drawing on a number of resources, including interviews, readings, documentary films, and first hand experiences, students and participants will learn what it means to combine theology and praxis, and recognize the significance of lived theology in reflections on doctrine, scripture, and the history of the Church. Participants are advised and will be given guidance on fundraising (church, family, friends, social service, etc.) to defray the cost of the trip. Cost for the trip will be finalized at least one year prior to departure. Please note that in order to keep costs to a minimum, we will rely on hospitality and mission projects from our contacts. Participants should be prepared to "rough it." Students will have the opportunity to receive dual credit as either an Area B or C elective.

Academic Honesty

All work you submit in God and Globalization is expected to be yours. Any quotations of the words of others must be clearly indicated, and all direct indebtedness must be acknowledged by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty or general citation procedures

can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of Seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

Inclusive Language

The use of inclusive language in course work is a policy of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In your writing, avoid language for people that leave out part of the population or perpetuate stereotypes. Avoid gender specific pronouns when gender is unknown. Gender specific pronouns should generally be avoided when referring to God unless you are quoting from a theological text or a translation of the Bible that uses them.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to analyze and articulate the human rights dimensions of the post-apartheid situation in South Africa.
2. Students will utilize the skills they learn about racial reconciliation in South Africa to the process of developing a multi-cultural ecumenical community at LPTS.
3. Students will use their mission experience to inform churches and local communities about the necessity for truth and justice in the racial reconciliation process.

Required Texts

Frances Adeney and Arvind Sharma, *Christianity and Human Rights: Influences and Issues* (New York, NY: State University of New York Press, 2007).

J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2000).

John W. De Gruchy, *Reconciliation: Restoring Justice* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2002).

Antjie Krog, *Country of My Skull: Guilt, Sorrow, and the Limits of Forgiveness in the New South Africa* (New York, NY: Times Books, 1998).

Piet Meiring, *A Chronicle of the Truth Commission* (Vanderbijlpark Carpe Diem, 1999).

Desmond Tutu, *No Future without Forgiveness* (New York, NY: DoubleDay, 1999).

Charles Villa-Vicencio, *A Theology of Reconstruction: Nation Building and Human Rights* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1992).

Grading/Assignments

1. All students expecting to receive credit for the trip will be required to attend all meetings, before and after the trip; participate in discussions, and serve as an active participant in entire process. 20%
2. Each student will be required to keep a daily journal during the trip (with at least 20 entries, one for each day). The journal will be submitted and returned to students at the completion of the seminar. (50%)
3. Students will write an 8-10 page essay paper about the trip. The papers will explore and integrate the theological, ethical and missional dimensions of the seminar, paying particular attention to the South African context. This essay will be distinct from your journal entries and build on your experiences and readings during the seminar. Students may use the essay as an opportunity to develop a publishable article in a journal, magazine or newspaper; or construct a creative proposal or program for ministry. (30%)

Timeline

December 1, 2007	Group planning meeting (no. 1)
February 4, 2008	Group planning meeting (no. 2)
March 1, 2008	Confirmation of participants with \$250.00 deposit
May 6, 2008	Group planning meeting (no. 3)
June/July	Purchase of tickets for the trip
September 2008	Course Readings begin <i>Meiring, A Chronicle of the Truth Commission; Tutu, No Future Without Forgiveness</i>
October 1, 2008	Group planning meeting (no. 4) <i>Adeney and Sharma, Christianity and Human Rights</i>
December 1, 2008	Final Group planning meeting (no. 5) <i>Krog, Country of My Skull</i>
January 2009	*First week in January, Departure to South Africa
Late January	Arrival from South Africa
February	Final meeting (reflections and presentations)

Tentative Itinerary

Depart Louisville, Kentucky (early January)

Arrive in Cape Town

- Day 1 Recuperation, site seeing, visiting the Cape
 Coetzee, *Disgrace*
- Day 2 Visit with Charles Villa-Vicencio, local NGO groups
 Villa-Vicencio, *A Theology of Reconstruction*
- Day 3 Visit with Religious leaders and participants in the South African
 Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Day 4 Mission Project—Service and visitation
- Day 5 Mission Project—Service and visitation
- Day 6 Robins Island Prison where Nelson Mandela was held
- Day 7 Attend mass led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu (held on Fridays,
 contingent on schedule and availability)
- Day 8 Leisure & site seeing
- Day 9 Worshipping with local congregations
- Day 10 Depart Cape Town to Johannesburg (scenic route, the “Garden Trail”
 along the coast via bus)
 *Camp overnight in George; visiting with John DeGruchy, theologian
 and activist
 De Gruchy, *Reconciliation*
- Day 11 Traveling via Bus to Johannesburg, arriving in evening
- Day 12 Recuperation, site seeing and relaxation in park
- Day 13 Visiting with students from the University of Pretoria; local NGOs;
 exploring work being done in Soweto
- Day 14 Cultural sharing with U. of Pretoria students,
- Day 15 Exploration in Healing and Memory
- Day 16 Retreat and Reflection
- Day 17 Retreat and Reflection
- Day 18 Preparation for departure, visiting the markets, cultural life
- Day 19 Depart from Johannesburg
- Day 20 Arrive in Louisville, Kentucky