

HIST 3751 - History of South Africa

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43555,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

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Public Instructor Information

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Course Description

3751. History of South Africa. From the beginnings of the 19th century to the present. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
	See Reading Below		

Required Course Readings

A. S. Mackinnon, *The Making of South Africa: Culture and Politics*

Mark Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa.*

Additional Books on Reserve at the Maag Library

J. D. Omer-Cooper, *History of Southern Africa*, 2nd ed. Heinemann, 1994.

John A. Williams, *From the South African Past: Narratives, Documents, and Debates*, Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	"Why did human history unfold differently on different regions of the world" by Jared Diamond. Richard Bulliet, Columbia University, on World History (video) National Geographic documentary: "The Journey of Man" Mackinnon, pp. 1-23; Omer-Cooper, pp. 2-16.	Unique Climate, Geography & Settlement: The Khoisan (Khoi & San) Most ancient Africans with Global Link	Due Date Sept 5, 2026 11:59pm
8/31			Nothing Due This Week



9/7	Mackinnon, pp. 24-50; Omer-Cooper, pp. 17-34	Dutch East India Company Settlement on Western Cape Expansion; Racial Attitudes, Conflict with Xhosa	Due Date Sept 12, 2026 11:59pm
9/14	Mackinnon, pp. 24-50; Omer-Cooper, pp. 35-41	The Boers & the Khoisan: The Rise of Plural Society, Colored People, commercial expansion and British Venture onto Western Cape	Due Date Sept 19, 2026 11:59pm
9/21	Mackinnon, pp.53-78; Omer-Cooper, PP. 35-81.	The British Cape Colony "Liberalism" & Reforms 1806-1867 Abolition of Slavery, Labor Missionary Enterprises Labor and Legal Reforms Missionary Enterprises Export Trade	Dur Date Sept 26, 2026 11:59pm
9/28	Mackinnon, pp. 79-111, 115-137; Omer-Cooper, PP. 52-68	New States: Boers and the African frontier, Great Trek; Boer Republics and the British: 1830-1870	Due Date Oct 3, 2026 11:59pm
10/5	Mid-Term Exam	Topics for Revision	Due Date Oct. 10, 2026 11:59pm
10/12	Mackinnon, 79-111, 115- 137; Omer-Cooper, pp. 52-68	The rise and demise of the Zulu, Missionaries, and Africans.	Due Date Oct. 17, 2026 11:59pm
10/19	Mackinnon, PP. 141-184; Omer-Cooper,PP.101- 150.	Early Phase of Industrialization: Gold, the British vs the Boers & African Migrant Labor	Due Date Oct 24, 2026 11:59pm
10/26	MacKinnon, pp. 185-224;Omer-Cooper, PP.154-180;	The South African War, Union & Reconstruction: British Empire vs Afrikaner Nationalism	Due Date Oct 31, 2026 11:59pm
11/2	MacKinnon, pp. 185-224: Omer-Cooper, PP. 154-180;	WWII & Second Industrialization; Black Urbanization, the National Party The Evolution of Apartheid	Due Date Nov. 7, 2026 11:59pm
11/9	MacKinnon, pp. 231-262; Omer-Cooper, PP. 161-220; Davenport PP. 331-37	Apartheid and Its Three Phases 1950s-1976	Due Date Nov. 14, 2026 11:59pm
11/16	Book Report		Due Date Nov. 21,2026 11:59pm
11/30	MacKinnon 270-296;304-349 Omer-Cooper, PP. 161-220, 274-275	Transformation of South Africa 1976-1994; decline and end of Cold war, African resistance Mandela-de Klerk; Dissolution of Apartheid& aftermath	Due Date Dec. 5, 2026 11:59pm
12/7	Final Exam	Topics for Revision	Due Date Dec. 8, 2026 11:59pm

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.