This course examines the history of South Africa from 1652-the present. The course will help students to understand the forces that have shaped contemporary South Africa. We will examine the early societies and culture, the contact with Europe, and the consequences for these societies. Our study will include European settler society, slavery, the British in South Africa, and the early 19th century upheavals in South Africa. The impact of the discovery of diamonds and gold, industrialization of South Africa, and the conflict between Africans, the Afrikaner, and the British will receive attention. The emergence of segregation, racial politics, apartheid, African nationalism, and the factors that led to the creation of a multi-racial democracy will be examined. There will be a mid-term examination on May 12th and a final on June 14th. A ten page term paper will be due on May 29th. Each of these assignments will count 1/3rd of the student’s course grade.

Texts (Available on reserve)

Leonard Thompson, A History of South Africa

Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom

J.B. Peires, The Dead Will Arise

Lectures and Assignments

April 3 and 5 Introduction and Overview

Early History of South Africa

European Beginnings in South Africa
April 10 and 12  Dutch settlement at the Cape
Thompson, Chapter II

April 17 and 19  The Mfecane
The British at the Cape
The Great Trek
Thompson, Chapter III
Finish reading Peires

April 24, 26, May 1  Diamonds and Gold
The Scramble for South Africa
The Boer War and Independence
Thompson, Chapter IV

May 3  Mid-Term Examination (Bring Blue Books)

May 8, 10, 15  Politics of Segregation
African Resistance
Road to War
Start reading Mandela's book
Thompson Chapter V

May 17, 22, 24  War and the Nationalist Government of 1948
Apartheid and Black Politics
Continue to read Mandela’s book
Thompson, Chapter VI

May 29, 31, June 5  Intensification of Apartheid
Steven Biko, Black Consciousness
The End of Apartheid
Finish reading Mandela, Thompson, Chapters 7, 8, 9

May 29  Term paper is due
June 7  Conclusion
(Make sure all reading assignments have been completed)

June 14  Final Exam 08:00a - 10:59a