

# South Africa

## Social and Political Transformation

Experience the socioeconomic, political, and cultural dynamics of South Africa, an extraordinarily diverse country in transition.

## Coursework

### Social and Political Transformation Seminar

AFRS 3000 / 8 credits / 120 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational and field excursions. Students examine the historical background of South Africa's apartheid system; the factors that contributed to the dismantling of that system; visions for post-apartheid South Africa; and the political, economic, cultural, and social structures of a "new" South Africa in transition. Lecturers are specialists in their areas and are drawn from the University of KwaZulu-Natal as well as a range of nongovernmental organizations including the Abahlali Shack Dwellers Movement, a restorative justice prison program called Phoenix Zululand, the Union of Refugee Women, and ACCORD, a conflict-resolution agency with programs across the African continent.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### **Political, Economic, and Social Landscape**

This module provides a frame of reference for the examination of social and political transformation in South Africa. Topics include the South African political economy; unemployment and poverty; housing; civil society; gender; education in South Africa.

#### **Development: Theory and Practice**

Overview of approaches to development and contemporary South African development policy; the informal sector; rural and agricultural development; service delivery; gender; HIV/AIDS; skills development.

#### **Reconciliation: Opportunities and Challenges**

Peacebuilding; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; the concept of *ubuntu*; violence and ethnicity; discrimination and xenophobia; race, class, and ethnicity; South Africa's role in conflict resolution and peacekeeping; the process of healing the legacies of apartheid.

### Educational Excursions

The program includes field visits to Johannesburg, the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal with a beach walk into the Eastern Cape, rural KwaZulu-Natal, the neighboring state of Swaziland, and the Umfolozi-Hluhluwe Game Reserve. Excursions give students the opportunity to explore South Africa's socioeconomic complexity, diversity, and natural beauty in greater depth.

### Introductory Language Study: Zulu

ZULU 1000 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

Emphasis is on beginning speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction, complemented by discussions of Zulu history and culture.

### Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a field journal.

### Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Durban or in another approved location appropriate to the project. Students may choose to undertake either an Independent Study Project or an internship with an affiliate organization working in social and/or political transformation. **Sample topic areas:** AIDS in South Africa; peace efforts in KwaZulu-Natal; democracy as seen by South Africans; education policy reform and implementation; the prison system in South Africa; prenatal and primary healthcare; independent

## AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Durban

**Language Study** Zulu

**Homestays** Two in the greater Durban area, totaling 7 weeks

**Rural Visit/Homestay** 10 days

**Other Accommodations** Hostels, private homes, or small hotels

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** None

churches and religion; trade unions and their alliance with the African National Congress; township jazz and political resistance; land reform; Zulu traditional healing and Western medicine; Afrikaner identity.

**Please note:** This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester.

Please visit [www.sit.edu/SFD](http://www.sit.edu/SFD) for details.