

**NWC/SS 113**  
**Southern Africa and Cultures**  
**Course Outlines**

NWC 113? NWC 113 / SS 113 7/88 18  
NWC lxx: Southern Africa + cultures

3 undergraduate credits

Course description: Multidisciplinary approach to the study of the Republic of South Africa and its neighbors. Includes ethnography, history, economic development, the growth of Apartheid, the spreading of the South African problem to its contiguous countries, and current political and foreign policy implications. No prerequisite. Every fall semester.

Rationale: About one-third of the members of the United Nations are African; that is too many for one course. WCSU has had on the books a NWC course in North Africa, which is being dropped, and one in Sub-Saharan Africa, still too large a unit for one course. Southern Africa will thus replace North Africa. Course would be offered every fall beginning in 1988.

Course outline:

- I. Regional overview of geography, natural history, prehistory, ethnography.
- II. Colonial history and socio-economic development, including the varieties of color-coded caste system, of each element in the Southern cone:
  - A. The Republic and its "Bantustans"
  - B. The former British Protectorates (Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland)
  - C. German South West Africa (succeeded by Namibia as an illegally occupied Trusteeship)
  - D. The Portuguese states of Angola and Mozambique
  - E. Malawi and Zimbabwe (and peripherally, Zambia) heirs of the old Anglophone Central African Federation
- III. Impact of Europeans on African cultures: social change and the reconstruction of ethnic identity
- IV. Post World War II developments as a region
  - A. Patterns of struggle for independence: successes and failures
  - B. Afrikaner nationalism, Nationalist Party victory, and the intensification of the Apartheid system
  - C. The battles against Apartheid: internal and external pressures
  - D. Political and economic realignments
  - E. (The arts of protest -- theater, literature, music, -- in South Africa)
- V. Visions of the future: possibilities for various alternatives

EM Rosenberg  
September 1987

*Library resources are adequate.*

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Rationale: Southern Africa is a logical subregion of the world's largest continent. It is the site of intense multicultural struggle for the foreseeable future, even in the territories not under South African control which are torn by civil strife that she foments. Because of the links to U.S. "civil rights" experience, it is an issue of profound importance for the formation of American foreign policy. Historically, it provides a test case for comparison of the impact of differing colonial policies on a common cultural core. Not least, it is a region where oppression and protest have inspired a rich array of artistic expression, particularly in literature, music, and the theater.

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