

**2013- June 25-Aug 9**  
**South Africa:**  
***Nongovernmental Organizations in Development***

**Political Science 437g**  
**Human Services 437g**  
**12 credits**

**Professors: Dr. Vernon Johnson, Political Science**

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**Course Outcomes:**

- 1) Students will add depth and/or breadth to their learning in academic areas related to the theory and practice of human services and political science in a South African context.
- 2) Students will generate knowledge of the growing role of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in bringing social development to townships in South Africa.
- 3) Students will engage in service-learning activities in a South African township, learning to work with local residents to accomplish localized goals.
- 4) Students will demonstrate awareness of values, reaction patterns, strengths, & limitations in diverse contexts.

**SERVICE LEARNING IN SOUTH AFRICA**

This class is designed to offer students a service-learning experience, combining academic instruction with community-based learning through service projects that meet community needs. It offers students the opportunity to explore the richness and diversity of South African communities while examining social justice issues, and making a contribution to the well-being of the community at large.

Students will explore the growing role of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in bringing social development to this dynamic and promising African country. The prism for this inquiry will be the NGO that the class visits and volunteers for summer quarter: *Willing Workers in South Africa*. Students who enroll will be expected to do some background readings and preparation during the spring term before embarking for South Africa. The readings will be in the area of South African history and politics, social and community development studies, nongovernmental organizations, and some rudimentary introduction to field research.

## Reading Materials

### Required

Anthony Butler, *Contemporary South Africa*

### Optional

Leonard Thompson, *A History of South Africa*

William Beinart, *Twentieth Century South Africa*

## ARTICLES (Blackboard Readings)

### Required

#### **Service-Learning:**

Service-Learning Guidelines

#### **Development Studies:**

Encyclopaedia of Informal Education, "Community Development"

DeFilippis and Saegert, "Communities Development. The Question is How?"

Simon, "Contextualizing South African Local Development within Current International Debates"

Bond, "Debates in Local Economic Development Policy and Practice"

#### **Nongovernmental Organizations:**

Karns and Mingst, "Non-State Actors: NGOs, Networks and Social Movements"

Ahmed and Potter, "NGOs and Foreign Aid"

Pinkney, "International NGOs: Missionaries or Imperialists"

#### **Research Methods:**

Bernard, "Participant Observation"

Rodriguez, et. al., "Culturally Responsive Focus Groups: Reframing the Research Experience to Focus on Participants"

Naidu and Slied, "Contextual Reflexivity? Towards Contextually Relevant Research with South African HIV-AIDS Home-Based Care Volunteers"

Fournier, et. al., "Discovering Voice: Participatory Action Research Study with Nurses in Uganda"

### Optional:

#### **Development Studies**

Nerfin, "Neither Prince nor Merchant: Citizen"

Johnson, "Globalization and the Study of Development"

Visser, "Shifting RDP into GEAR"

Binns and Nel, "Tourism as a Local Development Strategy in South Africa"

#### **Research Methods:**

Bernard, "Field Notetaking: Direct and Indirect Observation"

## **GRADING**

Prep examination	60
Journaling	25
Research Outline	25
Group Participation	50
Final Research Paper	<u>150</u>
	310

All assignments will be explained in detail during class.

## **Pre-Travel Preparation (at Western Washington University)**

### **June 18**

- Take-home pre-trip examination due: 6-7 pages (typed, double-spaced)
- Team Building/Ice-Breaking Exercises
- South African History: Its Relevance to US and World History
- Research in Kurland Village, (Guest speakers: Students from previous classes)
- Logistics: Remaining Details for Preparing to Travel

### **June 19**

- Post-Apartheid South Africa: The Political and Cultural Economy of Development.
- The Reconstruction and Development Program
- Growth, Equity and Redistribution Program
- Social Democracy versus Neoliberalism
- What Does It Mean To Be South African?
  - Non-racialism
  - The Rainbow Nation
  - The African Renaissance (Ubuntu)
  - Where's the Political Consensus?
- The Prince, the Merchant and the Citizen: the Role of NGOs in Development
  - What is Development?
  - What is Community Development?
  - NGOs: The Platform for Community Development

### **June 20**

- Ethics of Research Involving Human Subjects, Janai Symons, Office of Research And Sponsored Programs
- Methods of doing Field Work
  - Qualitative Methods
  - Participatory Action Research

**Travel: Seattle to Johannesburg: June 24-26 (travel to Johannesburg is independent, and scheduled by the student. We will meet back up as a group in Johannesburg on June 26**

**June 26**

Arrive in Johannesburg  
Opening dinner, PM

**June 27-28**

In-Country Orientation: Apartheid Museum, Soweto Tour, Voortrekker Monument  
Afternoon flight to Port Elizabeth, transfer to *Willing Workers in South Africa*.

You will be in residence for 8 weeks with *Willing Workers in South Africa*

***Willing Workers in South Africa***

Willing Workers in South Africa (WWISA) aims to harness the energies of global citizens to support the enhancement of the current and future prospects of community members in the Bitou Region of the Western Cape Province. This NGO seeks “to develop integrated, racially and socially harmonious, economically viable and successful, self-sustaining model communities.” WWISA offers placements in the fields of social services, education, sustainable environmental practice, health care, and job training. WWISA programs are centered on the small township of Kurland in this remote region where government programs don’t often trickle down.

**POTENTIAL SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS**

**Organizations Supported by WWISA Volunteers**

**Dollars for Change**

- based in the US - 501(c)3 non-profit
- focuses on poverty alleviation, youth development, education and social awareness
- main projects include housing refurbishment (directly linked with WWISA), solar water heating project, and after school program

**Born in Africa**

- has non-profit status in both Belgium and South Africa
- focuses on education - pairs overseas donors with school children - “sponsor-a-child” program which provides funding for school uniforms, books, supplies, shoes, etc.
- Also run supplemental reading, literacy, and homework help for children that are in their program

**Masizakhe**

- non-profit status in South Africa
- was initiated by Graham Black, owner of Kurland Brick Factory, in response to feedback from his staff regarding hardships in the village.
- focuses on community upliftment - now run by a committee of members from Kurland Village

- projects include the creation of a monthly community newspaper, holiday programs for small children as well as elderly people, running a second-hand shop, and organizing drug/alcohol-free community events during special holidays.

### **Nature's Valley Trust**

- South African NGO involved in conservation and environmental education
- Their Environmental Education outreach program gets school children involved in groups such as Adopt-a-Beach/River Club, Eco-Club, Village Cleaning, Village Greening

### **Plett Aid Foundation**

- South African non-profit organization that provides home-based care for HIV/AIDS patients.

### **Kurland Creche**

- Kurland Village's only preschool
- often struggles with an overload of children as well as unqualified staff
- WWISA has a long history of providing volunteer help to the creche

### **Other Potential Possibilities**

Projects involving educators, community development practitioners, social work/human services, political scientists, sociologists, anthropologists (**Can craft project in conjunction with WWISA**)

### **June 29**

Jet Lag Recovery!  
On-Site Orientation

### **June 30-July 1**

Salt River-Nature's Valley Hike,  
Animal Alley Primate and Bird Sanctuaries

### **Weeks 2-7 (July 2-August 3): Service-Learning Projects**

#### **Orientation to Kurland Village**

- Volunteering with selected project
- Keep journals
- Participant observation/Research question development
- Bi-Weekly class meetings
- Individual Consultations – By appointment

### **July 16-19**

Journal Submissions/ Midterm Debriefing

### **July 20-23**

Addo Valley National Park: Safari

### **August 1-3**

Research Paper Outline Due

**August 6-9**

Cape Town: The Mother City  
Class-Ending Dinner

**Research Papers Due – August 20: To avoid “K” for summer**

**September 30**

**Half-Day Reunion/Retreat**

So Where’s Your Head At Now?  
Building Lasting Partnerships with South Africa  
Independent Study Opportunities

**GRADING SCALE**

The course grading scale is as follows:

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>POINT PERCENTAGE RANGE</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>95 – 100</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90 – 94</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87 - 89</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>84 – 86</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80 – 83</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>77 – 79</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>74 – 76</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>70 – 73</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>67 - 69</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>64 – 66</b>
<b>D-</b>	<b>60 – 63</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Below 60</b>

NOTE: Grading standards are described in the WWU bulletin. Students will be given the opportunity to evaluate both the course and the instructor at the end of the quarter. Informal feedback is welcome anytime throughout the quarter.

## POLICIES

### Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism- Instances of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will receive a failing grade and will be reported to the Provost's office. A student may be dismissed from the Program if a major violation of academic dishonesty is identified. Western Washington University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and upholding the standards of academic honesty as set forth in the *WWU Academic Dishonesty Policy and Procedure* (see Appendix D of the University Bulletin).

### Late Assignments

Assignments are due on or before assigned due dates. Due dates for the reading, written and/or presentation assignments are given in the Description of Assignments and Reading Assignments. Late assignments will receive a 10% deduction for each day the assignment is late.

### Written Work

All written work must be typed, double-spaced, and grammatically correct. Assignments should conform to APA Publication guidelines (unless otherwise negotiated with the instructor). Please proofread work before submitting. Poor writing skills and submission of work that does not address assignment criteria will influence the final grade. The Writing Center at WWU is available to provide writing support and assistance. Please contact them for details at:  
<http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/writingcenter/index.htm> .

### “K” Grade

Students who request a “K” (incomplete) grade must be doing acceptable work up until the 7th week in order to be eligible to receive an incomplete. “The grade of **K (Incomplete)** is given only to a student...when extenuating circumstances make it impossible to complete course requirements on schedule.” (Extenuating circumstances do not include mere lateness in completing work.) Students must request the “K” grade and a contract must be completed stating what must be accomplished to satisfy the incomplete. A date of completion must be specified on the contract. Students will be given the grade earned at the time of the incomplete contract minus any points associated with incomplete assignments if course work is not completed as agreed when the contract expires. Please review the statement regarding the assignment of incomplete grades in the Western Washington University Bulletin.

### Reasonable Accommodation

It is the policy of Western Washington University to provide reasonable accommodations to the known physical, sensory, and/or mental limitations of qualified individuals except where such accommodation would impose undue hardship on the institution. To request accommodation, students must contact WWU disAbility Resource Center for Students at (360) 650-3083 or [www.wwu.edu/depts/drs/](http://www.wwu.edu/depts/drs/).

### **Corresponding by email**

All students are required to use MyWestern accounts for official class email. Official University announcements are sent via WWU email. You are welcome to forward your WWU email to a personal account, but please be aware that some free email accounts do not notify you or the sender when mail is not delivered. It is the student's responsibility to make certain that email is received.