

SOUTH AFRICA PROGRAM (GSAF) COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GSAF 312 Introduction to African Studies (3 units)

Until the twentieth century, nearly all parts of Africa were under colonial rule. In the late eighteenth hundreds, European countries carved out large areas of the continent for themselves. The degree to which they ruled their colonies varied from area to area, but a common feature was that the new borders cut across ethnic groups and their land, and the colonial governments controlled large populations without representation. This course examines the history of the continent with a focus on southern Africa. It analyzes some of the diverse cultural beliefs and practices, and examines the impact of colonialism on the indigenous people of the continent.

GSAF 316 Development Theories in the African Context (3 units)

After World War II and the inauguration of the Marshall Plan, the concept of international development began to be articulated through the newly emerging international agencies such as the World Bank, the United Nations, and the International Monetary Fund. Initially, development was seen through the perspective of “developed and developing”, or “first and third world” countries, which implied that the “developed” world was an effective model to adopt for the “less developed” countries. Over the next decades, developed theories were modified or discarded if found to be ineffective. Newer development concepts include “pro-poor” and “participatory” development. The shift from economic to a more holistic development ideology is discussed. The major development theories are critically analyzed as applied in the African context, with the focus on southern African development. The course includes guest lectures and seminars.

GSAF 320 Zulu Language, Conversation and Culture (2 units)

This required course is based on both classroom sessions and guided, activity-centered learning. While the basics of grammar and vocabulary, syntax and simple conversation are features of this course, the emphasis is on oral communication and Zulu culture.

GSAF 380 Internship (4 units)

Students spend 15 -20 hours each week working in an organization or institution under the guidance of a field advisor. The work is documented through weekly reports, a critical analysis of the organization and materials that are evidence of the student's contribution to the organization. Examples of internships in Durban include; social and economic development projects; environmental advocacy groups; HIV/AIDS home-based care workers' organizations; organizations working with child-headed households, orphanages, or street children; use of arts and drama in teaching about social issues; civil society scholar program.

Independent Study GSAF 390-397, 490-499

Students have the opportunity to conduct a directed Independent Study with guidance from their Faculty Advisor. There may also be opportunities for independent study projects, service learning projects, and/or internships.

GNYC 340 Junior Research Seminar (2 units)

Required only for LIU Global students who are Juniors and have not completed it; not visiting students

This online required course provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to research, organize and write a thesis proposal as well as a fully developed research paper that incorporates multiple primary and secondary resources that students evaluate according to the pyramid of sources and through critical readings. Students also learn to narrow down a general topic into a manageable project, organize it through scheduling, notes and interviews, and become familiar with the various ways of citing sources and avoiding plagiarism. This course is a prerequisite for the Independent Study Semester.