

Botswana: Development in Southern Africa

Independent Study Project (ISP) Seminar

Spring 2019

Instructor

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Credits

Required course; 4 semester credits

Course Syllabus

Course Objectives

This course on **Development in Botswana** is a weekly seminar with the following objectives:

- Provide guidance for students as they conduct their independent research projects
- Integrate student experiences and group field trips with academic study of development in Botswana
- Provide background information on various aspects of social, cultural, political and economic change in the region of southern Africa
- Learn from guest speakers with expertise on those issues

Requirements

The grade for the class will be determined by the number of points earned out of a possible total of 200, apportioned as follows: four occasional reading quizzes (5 points each), two neighbourhood walk assignments (10 points each), village visit assignment (20 points), research proposal (20 points), final research paper (100 points), and participation in class activities (20 points). Classes will be mostly discussion-based, with occasional lectures and mini-lectures providing background and historical context on the various topics. Students are expected to participate actively and intelligently in discussion, thoughtfully considering the different viewpoints of the authors, the instructor and one another.

The final letter grade will be determined by the percent of points earned out of the total of 200, according to the following scale:

97-100%	A+	87-89%	B+	77-79%	C+	65-69%	D
93-96%	A	83-86%	B	73-76%	C	< 65%	F
90-92%	A-	80-82%	B-	70-72%	C-		

Readings

The readings listed for each day should be read in preparation for that day's class. The texts for the course include four books about various aspects of development in Botswana. The Campbell & Main book will be made available in Botswana, but students should purchase the other books in the U.S.

- Alec Campbell and Mike Main, *Guide to Greater Gaborone* (2003)
- Unity Dow, *Juggling Truths* (2004)
- Joseph Mbele, *Africans and Americans: Embracing Cultural Differences* (2005)
- Abdi Samatar, *An African Miracle: State and Class Leadership and Colonial Legacy in Botswana Development* (1999)

The other readings are journal articles and excerpts from various books, available via links and as downloadable files on the class website. The website also includes a number of other useful links and resources, and it is where some/most of the written assignments will be submitted.

Supplementary Resources

There are several useful websites and other resources that provide additional information on Botswana and African studies. These include:

- GOB docs – website, BW archives
- Bots collection at UB library
- MSU
- UW
- current events news sources
- AfricalsACountry
- *New Encyclopedia of Africa*

Format for Written Assignments

Each of the written assignments should be typed in 12-point font and double-spaced. No title page is necessary, but a title, the student's name, class, professor's name and date should be printed at the top of the first page.

Footnotes should be used when a quote is made from a source or when a notable idea or significant piece of information is attributed to a certain source. However, any information and ideas that are generally accepted or widely known do not require citation. If the source of a quote or idea is one of the assigned texts for the class, then only the author and page number need to be cited. For other sources that are cited, include the full bibliographic information in the footnote. For further writing assistance, consult Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*.

It is expected that all work that you turn in is your own. If you have any concerns regarding the quality or integrity of your work, you are encouraged to consult with Prof. Volz.

Schedule of Topics, Assignments, and Activities

Please note: This is a tentative schedule; activities and dates (which are based on the 2017 calendar) are subject to change.

Jan. 25: Stereotypes and First Impressions – Botswana and “The Real Africa”

Binyavanga Wainaina, “How to Write About Africa”, *Granta* 92 (2006) 91-95
 Curtis Keim, “Where is the Real Africa?”, in *Mistaking Africa* (2014), 67-82
 Mark Pires, “Study-Abroad and Cultural Exchange Programs to Africa: America’s Image of a Continent” *African Issues* 28,1 (2000) 39-45
 Main and Campbell, *Guide to Greater Gaborone*, 16-82
 Neighbourhood walk assignment #1 due in class

Feb. 1: Making Sense of Cultural Differences

Kenneth Wagner and Tony Magistrale, “Culture Shock and the Intercultural Experience” in *Writing Across Culture* (1994), 1-21
 Joseph Mbele, *Africans and Americans* [read all 98 pages of the book]
 Guest speaker on Tswana culture

Feb. 8: Conducting Social Research in Botswana

Horace Miner, “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” *American Anthropologist* 58,3 (1956) 503-507
 John Holm, “Face Time”, in *Botswana Essays* (2016)
 Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations* [7th ed.] (2007), 5-23
 Handout describing independent research project
 Guest speakers from UB on research protocol and library resources

Feb. 11-12: Homestay in Gabane

Feb. 15: The Botswana “Miracle” – Diamonds and Democracy

Abdi Samatar, *An African Miracle* [read all 196 pages of the book]
 Guest speaker

Feb. 18: Trip to Jwaneng diamond mine and Kanye

Feb. 22: The Role of Gaborone as the Capital City

Main and Campbell, *Guide to Greater Gaborone*, 83-108
 Anthony Kent and Horatius Ikgopoleng, "Gaborone" *Cities* 28,5 (2011) 478-494
 Guest speaker from Gaborone city hall
 Research project proposal due in class

Mar. 1: Defining "Development"

James Ferguson, "The Constitution of the Object of 'Development': Lesotho as a 'Less Developed Country'", from *The Anti-Politics Machine* (1994), as excerpted in Susanne Schech and Jane Haggis (eds.), *Development: A Cultural Studies Reader* (2002), 93-102
 Amartya Sen, "The Ends and the Means of Development", in *Development as Freedom* (1999), 35-53
 Article/chapter on development in Botswana
 Guest speaker

Mar. 8: Wildlife Tourism in Botswana

Mwenda Ntarangwi, "Education, Tourism, or Just a Visit to the Wild?", *African Issues* 28, 1 (2000) 54-60
 General article on wildlife tourism in Botswana
 Joseph Mbaiwa and Amanda Stronza, "Changes in Resident Attitudes Towards Tourism Development and Conservation in the Okavango Delta, Botswana" *Journal of Environmental Management* 92,8 (2011) 1950-1959

Mar.11-19: Trip to Northern Botswana During Mid-Semester Break (No Class Meetings)

Mar. 22: Ethnic Minorities in Botswana

Lydia Nyati-Ramahobo, "Ethnic Identity and Nationhood in Botswana", in Isaac Mazonde (ed.), *Minorities in the Millennium: Perspectives from Botswana* (2002), 17-27
 Jacqueline Solway, "Navigating the 'Neutral' State: 'Minority' Rights in Botswana" *Journal of Southern African Studies* 28,4 (2002) 711-729
 Reading and/or webpages on San and CKGR
 Guest speakers

Mar. 29: Economic Disparities in Botswana

Kempe Hope and Wayne Edge, "Growth With Uneven Development: Urban-Rural Socio-Economic Disparities in Botswana" *Geoforum* 27, 1 (1996) 53-62

More recent article on disparities in Botswana

Short story or other writing by Bessie Head about rural-urban relations

Lauri Kubuitsile, "The Rich People's School" in *One World: A Global Anthology of Short Stories* (2009), 47-51

Holly McCoy, "Experiencing Race and Class Social Structures" *African Issues* 28, 1 (2000) 133

Village visit assignment due in class

April 5: Apartheid and Economic Development in South Africa

General reading by H. Wolpe or other on economic aspects of apartheid

Reading on fees-must-fall movement

Reading on legacy of apartheid-era urbanization

April 6-9: Trip to Gauteng and Phokeng

April 12: Chieftaincy and Development in Post-Apartheid South Africa – The Bafokeng

Reading on recent history of Bafokeng

Reading on significance of Royal Bafokeng Nation, use of platinum revenues, etc.

Copy of RBN development plan

April 19: The Media and Government Accountability

Articles by Good, Parsons and/or other critics

Guest speaker Jeff Ramsay

April 22-23: Trip to Serowe

April 26: Development and Social Change in Botswana

Unity Dow, Juggling Truths

Guest speaker (Unity Dow or English Dept. faculty)

May 3: Gender Relations and the AIDS epidemic

Elizabeth Onjoro Meassick, "HIV/AIDS Prevention", in Douglas Feldman (ed.), *AIDS, Culture and Africa* (2008), 170-200

Leah Gilbert and Terry-Ann Selikow, " 'The Epidemic in this Country Has the Face of a Woman': Gender and HIV/AIDS in South Africa" *African Journal of AIDS Research* 10, 1 (2011) 325-334

Bianca Dahl, "Sexy Orphans and Sugar Daddies: The Sexual and Moral Politics of Aid for AIDS in Botswana" *Studies in Comparative International Development* 50, 4 (2015) 519-538

May 10: Conclusions

Discuss research projects

Neighbourhood walk assignment #2 due in class

May 19: Completed research project due

May 22: Project poster presentations

ACM Policies on Academics

A complete listing of ACM policies can be found in your student handbook.

Class attendance and participation

You are expected to attend and participate fully in all classroom sessions, site visits, and field trips.

Academic honesty

Actions of dishonesty are destructive to the well-being of the academic community, and ACM staff respond to them vigorously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic theft will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in failure for the course.

ACM Policy on Non-Discrimination

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest does not discriminate in the operation of its educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, or disability.