This mini-course seminar is intended for those interested in topics on colonialism and decolonization, particularly in international law and politics as these relate to the formerly colonized. The course has some comparative implication for neo-colonial situations in the post-colonial era.

The seminar will examine European perceptions of non-Europeans and the ways in which these perceptions affect both theory and practice in Western legal and political thought. The focus of this course is the structure of the discourse of international law and the history of Europeans’ relations to Africans (international relations.) The purpose of this emphasis is to demonstrate the existence and the consequences of a tradition of erasure and displacement of non-Europeans in Western legal and political thinking. This is the reason that we will also pay serious attention to the politics of self-determination—from the inception of the concept to the present—as a metaphor for a generalized problem in Western thought.

There will be a special focus on Western colonial practices in Namibia (formerly South-West Africa) as well as on alternative solutions to colonialism within the processes defined by the United Nations.

This course will be open to advanced students in History, Political Science and Law. Enrollment will be limited to 20 students.

An override must be obtained from the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies in order to register. The course will begin on March 13 and will continue for four consecutive weeks each Tuesday and Thursday. Undergraduate students must take 410. Graduate should take 510 for graduate credits. This section may not be used to satisfy LS&A junior/senior writing requirements as it is for two (2) credit hours.

Please Note: The maximum number of credits allowed for Independent Study is 6, after which no credit will be given. Please check your transcripts prior to registering for this class.