



The University of Michigan
Center for Afroamerican and African Studies

Political Science 359
African Studies 351

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Winter, 1989

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The Struggle for Southern Africa

Southern Africa will be the last portion of the African continent to attain formal political independence and Black majority-rule. For the rest of this century the region is likely to remain at the top of Africa's, and the international community's, agendas as well as world news. For the same reasons the sub-continent will probably continue to be the most violent and most turbulent part of Africa--until Black-majority rule is introduced in the Republic of South Africa and formal political independence attained by Namibia.

In spite of the indisputable regional dominance of the Republic of South Africa and even despite Namibia's anachronistic colonial status in the region this course will be broader in its scope encompassing all the ten-odd countries that constitute the sub-continent, "Southern Africa."

Integral to our exploration will be the events of the 1970s when some of these countries gained their political liberation (Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe). We will attempt to identify the factors that make Southern Africa a "region"--geographical, cultural, historical, economic, infrastructural facets, etc., and the complex interplay between all of these. Interrelated structures as well as competing perspectives on them will be scrutinized.

