

**Drama in Southern Africa:  
Popular Theater & Performance**

**AAS. 358, Section 003**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10-11

Suria Govender, Visiting Lecturer

This course begins with preliminary discussions about what we mean when we identify theater as professional, political, and middle-class, or as labor movement theater. Thereafter we go on to examine what all this means in the Southern Africa context. We will also examine the theater as a mode of informal education in so-called Third World contexts, drawing our examples from relevant situations in Asia and South America. The course will thereafter focus on political or "oppositional" theater in Southern Africa. This will be done via a study of both individually and collaboratively authored texts. We will try to identify the political contexts (e.g. Black Resistance) and artistic practices out of which the plays spring and the implications of the kinds of criteria which may be used in evaluating them as theater. Texts will include: The Biko Inquest; The Trial of Dedan Kimathi, Ngugi and Mugo; Boesman and Lena, Athol Fugard; Woza Albert!, Kani Nshona; Egoli, Matsemela Manaka; Lahnee's Pleasures, Ronnie Govender; and D. Coplan's In Township Tonight, An Introduction to Popular Theater and Performance in Southern Africa.