

South Africa

NY DEPARTURE & RETURN DATES: JANUARY 1–25, 2015
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Aspects of Drama: Contemporary South Africa in Performance

Professor: Tyler Rivenbark

This course will examine the different theatrical elements present in and approaches to contemporary South African drama. We will discuss various “texts,” including the work of emerging artists Amy Jephta and Neil Coppen, and ask ourselves “What is a performative text?” Alongside these discussions, students will have the opportunity to create their own texts and performances, utilizing the tools of South African drama. Every week we will explore the city and culture of Cape Town and the surrounding area through the viewing of plays—ranging from traditional, mainstream shows at the Fugard Theatre in the historic District Six area to intimate, experimental shows at the Alexander Bar Upstairs. We will continue our exploration and class discussions by venturing outside the classroom to engage with the performative aspects of life in South Africa, whether lunch in a café or a hike through Table Mountain. Other excursions will include the Old Biscuit Mill, Kalk Bay, Cape Point, Robben Island and more.

Find out more at our information sessions:

Monday, Sept. 29, Monday, Oct. 6 & Wednesday, Oct. 22
12:15–1:30 pm, Kiely 270

Humans and Nature in South Africa

Professor: Larissa Swedell

This course explores the interface between humans and the natural world, with a specific focus on South Africa. Through readings, discussion, field trips, and written assignments, we will examine the ways in which humans view animals, historically and today, in a variety of contexts: animals as food, as pets, as pests, and as study subjects. We also will discuss wildlife conservation principles and challenges, including the causes and consequences of human–wildlife conflict. Finally, we will investigate and discuss real-life conservation challenges in South Africa, including big-game hunting, ivory poaching, wild cats as agricultural pests, and conflict between humans and nonhuman primates, such as baboons and vervet monkeys. The course will include field trips around the Cape Town area, including the Castle of Good Hope, the IZIKO and District Six museums, Robben Island, the Christiaan Barnard museum, Monkey Town, the Boulders Penguin Colony, Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope, and various baboon-frequented areas of the Cape Peninsula.

Scholarships Available!

