

# South Africa in Literary Perspective

Like the United States, southern Africa was long populated by indigenous peoples and was colonized by the Dutch (in 1652) and then by the British (from 1806). Non-indigenous slave and indentured labor was imported from Asia and other parts of Africa, and their descendants also live in South Africa today. (Germany colonized Southwest Africa—today Namibia—in the 1870s, which after World War I was controlled by South Africa until independence in 1990.) In 1948, Afrikaner nationalists won control of the South African state and instituted a pervasive system of racial domination that came to be known as apartheid. Encouraged by decolonization elsewhere on the continent, native Africans and other people of color sought a more effective voice in the country's affairs, which intensified into more overt forms of resistance to the apartheid regime. White rule formally came to an end in 1994, with the election by universal franchise of Nelson Mandela as state president.

Against this backdrop, this course will survey South African writing from the 1950s to the present, with a view toward studying the rise and fall of apartheid and its legacy, as revealed in the country's literature. Authors include J. M. Coetzee, Nadine Gordimer, Es'kia Mphahlele, Alan Paton, Njabulo Ndebele, Zakes Mda, Zoe Wicomb, Athol Fugard.

## GERM 252

TTH 3:30 – 4:45 PM

Dr Paul Roberge

### SPRING 2015

Readings & Class Discussions  
in English

