

# NELSON MANDELA: SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK LIBERATION LEADER FALL 2020 SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

## CLASS MEETINGS

We will meet weekly from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm on Mondays from Sept.14 to Nov.23 (not on Sept. 28) on zoom. Participants will receive a zoom meeting invitation from Norma Rossi Mead on Monday morning. Please join us at least five minutes early.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Rolihlahla (Nelson) Mandela (1918-2013) was an extraordinary man who was and is widely admired and considered by many to be one of the great political figures of the 20th century. He is remembered and revered as the inspiring leader of the Black Liberation Movement in modern South Africa and as South Africa's first black President.

This course will provide a window into the modern history of South Africa, and will be an historical and critical study of Mandela's life: his background and education, his ideas, his political activities and struggles, his amazing career, and his impact on the peoples of South Africa and the world. Throughout his lifetime, Mandela was faced with racism and bigotry. How successful was he? What can we learn from him and his experiences about racism and social change and about creating a just, peaceful, and harmonious society?

## COURSE READINGS AND RESOURCES

Our main text will be Mandela's interesting semi-autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom* (Little, Brown & Co), first published in 1994. Please acquire a paperback copy well before the class begins. An inexpensive edition is available from Amazon.

## PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

Participants will be expected to complete the weekly readings for the class and come prepared to discuss the material. Please do not be discouraged by the size of the Mandela book; some of the chapters will be optional. Please have a notebook for note taking and for class exercises. if possible, have a map of South Africa to refer to when needed. Please try to read the first 60 pages of the book before the first class.

This class will be mostly participatory. Each class session will include two topics. Each of us will be asked to sign up in advance to present and lead the discussion about one (maybe two) topics referred to on the syllabus. Your presentation should be brief (10 to 20 minutes) and you should provide us in advance with a set of provocative issues/questions about the topic for us to think about and discuss.

## FACILITATORS

JIM ESTEY is a recently retired professor of World History at Bryant University. He was educated at Cornell and at Brown and is particularly interested in what it means to be human in different cultures and in the processes of political and social change. He was a coordinator for the LLC fall course on Mahatma Gandhi. Phone: 401-351-1748

TOM BACKMAN is a retired social worker and an avid amateur photographer. He has co-led several LLC photography courses as well as the Gandhi class. Tom is interested in Mandela and is eager to help. Phone; 508-360-1375

NORMA ROSSI MEAD had a career in marketing and public relations and has worked in training and development. She is an experienced LLC Coordinator, and in the summer led the course Finding Purpose in a Pandemic. Phone: 309-472-8878

#### MICHAEL DUMOND

Mike Dumond and his wife Kate McGovern “semi-retired” from their full-time jobs in New Hampshire July 2018 and moved to Providence after a few years of flirting with the city’s mystique (charming architecture and notorious rep). His initial career was in social work/family counseling and then in public health. His education included an MBA from Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire and a master’s degree in Human Services Administration from U-Mass Boston. Phone: 603-738-6713

LLC MANDELA COURSE Fall 2020

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

- WEEK 1 SEPT 14  
reading, pp. 3-59
1. Introductions; course overview
  2. About South Africa
    - land and peoples
    - political and economic features
    - colonialism in South Africa
    - racism in South Africa
- WEEK 2 SEPT 21  
reading, pp.3-92
- MANDELA'S ROOTS AND EARLY LIFE
1. A country childhood
    - the Transkei
    - family life in Qunu
    - growing up in Mqhekezweni; circumcision
    - education at boarding schools
    - Fort Hare
  2. Moving to Johannesburg
    - the escape
    - the city and the mines
    - Mandela as law clerk: Sidelsky, Gaur, Nat
    - Alexandria
    - the Regent and Justice
    - University of Witwatersrand
- NO CLASS SEPT 28
- WEEK 3 OCT 5  
reading, pp. 93-140
- MANDELA AS POLITICAL ACTIVIST
1. African National Congress
    - Anton Lembede; "Africanism"; African nationalism
    - Youth League; Mandela marries Evelyn
    - mine workers strike; collaboration with Indians
    - general election of 1948; new apartheid laws
    - Mandela and Youth League issues
  2. ANC programs and protests
    - Program of Action; Freedom Day
    - Day of Protest
    - Defiance campaign; Trial of 21

- WEEK 4 OCT 12      MANDELA AS POLITICAL LEADER  
 reading, pp.143-227
1. The struggle intensifies
    - banning; the M Plan
    - Mandela's law practice
    - problem of Sophiatown
    - Mandela's first banning order; the court case
    - Bantu Education Act and results
  2. More protests and government repression
    - Congress of the People; Freedom Charter; government responses
    - Mandela's "working vacation"; bunga system
    - Bantu Authorities Act; the bantustans
    - Mandela and others arrested; Johannesburg Prison
    - preliminary examination: charges and defense
    - marriage problems with Evelyn; separation-
    - courtship of Winnie Madikiizela the wedding
    - the Treason Trial resumes
- WEEK 5 OCT 19      AN OUTLAW EXISTENCE  
 reading, pp.227-307
1. Living underground
    - conditions and tactics
    - May 29 stay-at-home and results
    - issue of the armed struggle
    - Umkhonto we Sizwe; planned activities
    - Liliesleaf Farm
    - MK objectives, strategies, members; Dingane's
  2. Trip outside South Africa
    - visit to Ethiopia and PA Conference
    - tour of African countries and England; responses
    - military training
    - Mandela's return
- WEEK 6 OCT 26      THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE INTERRUPTED  
 reading, pp.311-378
1. Mandela under arrest-
    - Mandela's report to the Working Committee
    - Mandela is arrested, jailed; the charges;
    - Mandela's rebuttal
    - prison conditions at Pretoria Local
    - Transkei self gov; 90 Day Detention Law
    - transfer to Robben Island; treatment by guards
    - Liliesleaf Farm - events of July 11, 1963
  2. Rivonia Trial

- Palace of Justice: court officials, charges pleas
- Yutar: Prosecutor's case; witnesses
- the Defense's case and approach
- Mandela's testimony, others
- Government's response; de Wit's rulings
- verdict; de Wit's sentence

WEEK 7 NOV 2 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT - ROBBEN ISLAND  
 reading, pp.381-496 1. The Dark Years 1964-1978  
 2. Beginning to Hope 1978-1990

WEEK 8 NOV 9 TALKING WITH THE ENEMY  
 reading, pp.469-558 1. Transfer to Poolsmoor Prison  
 -pre-transfer dreams, prison changes  
 -new prison conditions at Poolsmoor  
 -initial contacts with govt. officials; M's responses  
 -meetings with Kobie Coetse and others;  
 discussion of "critical issues"  
 -negotiations with the Secret Committee  
 2. Transfer to Victor Vester cottage  
 -new living conditions and amenities  
 -meeting with State President Botha; issues  
 -escalating violence and problems in S. Africa  
 -letter and meeting with new President deKlerk;  
 "group rights", Mandela's release  
 -Feb.2 1990 -lifting of bans, freeing of prisoners  
 -Feb. 9,1990 -Mandela is freed; conditions

WEEK 9 NOV 16 FREEDOM AND NEGOTIATIONS  
 reading, pp.561-617 1. Mandela is a free man  
 -conditions and events of his release  
 -talks about talks; ideas of deKlerk; agreements  
 -travels: to Qunu, Robben Island, and abroad

- ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE
  - the armed struggle; Pretoria Moment
  - the “Third Force” - police support of rebels
    - M. complains; deKlerk does nothing
  - Zulus and Inkatha can carry weapons
- Mandela is elected President of the ANC;
- Oliver Tambo dies
- 2. Formal negotiations
  - CODESA-1 issues; Mandela vs de Klerk
  - CODESA-2 issues and conflicts
    - Boipatong Raid
    - Record of Understanding
    - Joe Slovo - “sunset clause”
  - Election plans; Election campaigns
    - Mandela awarded Nobel Prize
  - Buthelezi’s opposition and comeback
  - Conduct of the Election of April/ May 1994-

WEEK 10 NOV 23      MANDELA AND THE “NEW SOUTH AFRICA”  
 reading, pp.614-625

1. Election results
  - Mandela’s reflections
  - Mandela as President of South Africa
  - challenges of the New South Africa
2. Mandela’s last years
3. Life and legacy of Nelson Mandela

N.B. Notes have been included in the syllabus on some of the topics and subtopics in the text to provide focus points for the reading, and to help in the selection and development of participant presentations and discussions.

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived, it is what difference we have made to the lives of others”.  
 - Nelson Mandela-

JEstey 8/20