



Intercultural Studies

Area Study / South Africa



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Information and Registration

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Intercultural Studies
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Intercultural Studies at Danube University Krems

We live in a time of global flows of people, goods, services and ideas. The emerging academic field of Intercultural Studies reflects the growing demand for skills and expertise in navigating an increasingly interconnected world and offers a framework for orienting oneself in the midst of these ongoing processes of change.

Since 2003, the Intercultural Studies Programme at Danube University Krems has been offering seminars abroad to provide a real-world setting within which to experience intercultural challenges and to apply intercultural knowledge and skills. This seminar, taught in South Africa by South African experts, gives participants the opportunity of immersing themselves in a foreign culture within the structured environment of a guided experience.

The Rainbow Nation

Johannesburg

Johannesburg, also known as Jozi, Jo'burg or eGoli (City of Gold), is the largest city in South Africa and has the largest economy of any metropolitan region in sub-Saharan Africa. Due to its location on the mineral-rich Witwatersrand hill range, it is a centre of large-scale gold and diamond trading. It seats the Constitutional Court, which plays a major role in the interpretation and execution of South Africa's new post-apartheid constitution.

Cape Town

Cape Town is known as one of the most multicultural cities in the world. With an estimated population of 3.5 million, it has become the second-largest city in South Africa. It seats the National Parliament and is the legislative capital of South Africa. Cape Town is also Africa's most popular tourist destination.

> Co-ordinators

Melissa Steyn, Professor of Sociology and Head of the Department of Intercultural Studies and Diversity, University of the Witwatersrand. Dr. Steyn is best known for her work on whiteness and white identity in post-apartheid South Africa, and has published on many aspects of diversity, including race, gender, culture and sexuality.

Eva Aileen Jungwirth, MA, is a South African trainer, based in Vienna. For the past seven years, she has been working as a trainer in the fields of intercultural awareness, intercultural sensitivity and intercultural communications and conflict transformation. Currently she is working toward her PhD on the African philosophy of uBuntu.

Helena Buss, BA (Hons.), born and raised in South Africa, is based in Vienna where she has been working as a trainer in the fields of English and intercultural awareness. She is currently writing her thesis on South Africans in Austria in the framework of the Intercultural Competencies master's degree programme at Danube University Krems.



> Objectives

- To become familiar with recent political, economic, social and cultural changes in South Africa
- To gain an understanding of South Africa's diversity, in particular of the different worlds inhabited by the different ethnic groups, the interaction between these groups, as well as the impact of South Africa's history of apartheid on everyday life
- To interact with local professors, students and entrepreneurs as well as with expatriates
- To experience and reflect on life and work issues in various regions of South Africa

> Programme content

- Attending lectures on South African history, politics, economics, diversity and conflict transformation at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and at the University of Cape Town
- Learning about indigenous South African traditions (uBuntu), apartheid, the Truth Commission and ways of handling diversity in contemporary South Africa
- Catching glimpses of living and working conditions in Johannesburg and Cape Town
- Visiting a nature park

> Methods

- Preparatory reading
- Presentations (with discussions) in English by African professors
- Guided excursions to sites of political, economic and cultural importance as well as to selected tourist areas and locations of contemporary urban culture
- Experiencing South Africa (e.g., lecture and an over-night stay in the African bush, tour of a township)
- Keeping a journal
- Reflecting on observations and impressions with the co-ordinators



Facts

Accommodation

Accommodation in a comfortable 3- or 4-star university guest house or bed-and-breakfast in Johannesburg and Cape Town and in a comfortable tent in a nature park. Individual stays in area hotels or hostels are also possible.

Prerequisites

Good English language skills and a serious interest in intercultural issues in general and in South Africa in particular.

Program Fee

The program fee is **1.200 Euros**. This includes all programme materials, lecture and admission fees in Johannesburg and Cape Town, as well as in the nature park. It does not include flights, accommodation costs or meals.



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