EXPLORE AFRICA 2008

AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

June 29 - July 4 Residential Program
June 4 - 20 Travel Program

For High-Ability Students
Entering Grades 10, 11, and 12

All students participate in the Residential Program that includes:

- Daily language classes in isiXhosa, primary language of the Eastern and Western Provinces of South Africa.

- Sessions on the history, culture, society and politics of South Africa within the broader African context.

- Participating in African arts and cultural activities such as art, music and dance.

- Focusing on the logistics of and preparing for travel to South Africa.

Optional Travel Component:

- Fourteen students travel to South Africa for two weeks.

- Students have the option of earning 2 MSU credits during their travel to South Africa.

Sponsored by the Office of International Studies and Programs, the African Studies Center, the Office of Gifted and Talented Education and the Honors College at Michigan State University
INTRODUCTION

South Africa, like the United States is a country of rich diversity--geographical as well as social and cultural. Moreover, over the past 14 years, South Africa has experienced one of the most dramatic peaceful transformations in modern world history as it has emerged from three centuries of severe racial discrimination into a vibrant multicultural democracy. South Africa's rich history and contemporary culture and society are wonderfully captured in beautiful Cape Town and the neighboring province of the Eastern Cape, the geographic foci of this program.

Students can participate in the one-week residential program on the campus of Michigan State University without participating in the travel component of the program. Those who elect to travel to South Africa will leave from Lansing on Friday, June 27th, returning to Detroit on July 12, 2008. Students completing the three-week program have the option of earning 2 MSU credits after completing the academic requirements of the program.

The academic focus of the program will be the study of South Africa’s struggle for freedom and its transformation into an emerging democracy. In addition to “traditional” lectures and texts, these issues will be explored through expressive cultural “texts” including fiction, art, music, drama, film and while in South Africa, through daily field trips to museums and other important cultural, social, political and economic institutions. Students will also spend two days at Addo Elephant Park in the Eastern Province and with weather permitting, will climb beautiful Table Mountain. During the travel portion of the program, each student will be responsible to fully participate in all aspects of the program, keep a photo-journal, and write a series of short review papers on the novels, music, art exhibits, drama and films used in the program.

CURRICULUM

Explore Africa at MSU offers students content, materials, and learning activities that facilitate a comprehensive study of the African continent, its societies and people in their great diversity through a forward study of South Africa. Africa, which is the second largest continent in the world in both physical size and population, has unfortunately often been “under” taught, marginalized and often grossly misrepresented in the textbooks and classrooms in America, as well as in our media and popular culture.

Much of the news that we read or hear about Africa in the press is largely negative. Explore Africa at MSU challenges these stereotypical representations by presenting Africa in all of its rich cultural, social, economic and political diversity. Explore Africa at MSU encourages students to critically look beyond the current images of Africa in order to gain a more complete and comprehensive understanding of the continent’s past, present, and outlook for the future.

Timeline

4-9-08  Applications must be postmarked by this date. Tuition and passport due by this date.*
4-23-08  Orientation at Michigan State University
6-29-08  Student registration and check-in at the resident hall
6-30-08  One-week residential program on MSU Campus
7-4-08  Students check out of residence hall. Those traveling to South Africa depart for Detroit Metro Airport
7-20-08  Depart South Africa for the United States, returning to Detroit Metro Airport.

*It is strongly recommended that students apply for passports as soon as possible.
RESIDENTIAL LIVING AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Students will be staying in a residence hall on the campus of Michigan State University, for the duration of the program. Two students will be assigned per room. Explore Africa at MSU sets the highest expectations for its participants in both academic participation and personal deportment. Students will be dismissed from the program for use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs, and for behavior that threatens the safety of themselves or other students.

ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSION PROCESS

Explore Africa at MSU is looking for students who:
· will be entering grade 10, 11, or 12 in 2008/09 with a high GPA in strong academic subjects
· have a desire to work in an academically challenging environment
· are enthusiastic, creative learners

In order to be eligible students must have the following:
· an educator recommendation
· a student essay
· and ONE or more of the following:
  · a transcript showing a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above
  · a MME score report showing that the student meets or exceeds state standards in either language arts or social studies, OR
  · documentation of strong standardized test scores (PLAN, PSAT, ACT or SAT)

These must be sent along with:
· the completed and signed application. Applications are evaluated as they are received.
· an application fee check for $50.00 made out to Michigan State University
· if applying for the travel component, include $450.00 deposit and a photocopy of the photo page of your passport.

FACULTY and STAFF

**John Metzler**, Assistant Professor of African Studies and Teacher Education, and Coordinator of Outreach Programs for the African Studies Center, Michigan State University. Dr. Metzler led the team that developed *Exploring Africa*, a virtual curriculum that students will use as a core resource in the web-based projects. Dr. Metzler has taught and done research in Africa since 1972, where he started his career as a high school history teacher. Each summer since 1993 he has lead an MSU study abroad program to southern Africa. In addition, he has taught courses on Africa in US high schools and universities since 1979. Dr. Metzler has been the instructional leader for Explore Africa at MSU since 2002.

**Steve Sharra** is an award winning author of children’s literature from Malawi. He recently completed his Ph.D in education and African Studies from MSU. Steve is an experienced teacher, having taught literature and writing in Malawi and at MSU. He has a deep commitment to promoting the accurate teaching of Africa. Summer 2008 will be Steve’s third summer with Explore Africa @ MSU.

**Lindile Ndlebe** will serve as our isiXhosa instructor. Mr. Ndlebe teaches isiXhosa as well as other South African languages at MSU. This is his first year participating in Explore Africa.

**Heidi Irvine** will serve as our African art instructor. Ms. Irvine recently was awarded Michigan Art Teacher of the Year honors. This is her first year of participating in Explore Africa. Ms. Irvine is a high school art teacher at Holt High School. She will be also traveling to South Africa as a chaperone.

**Maria Kujenga** will serve as our African music and dance instructor for the fourth year. Ms. Kujenga is an ethnomusicologist and music instructor. She has studied dance and music in Zimbabwe and has taught African music and steel drumming in community music education programs in the Lansing area.
PROGRAM COSTS

The Explore Africa at MSU residential program fee $450.00 and includes the following:

- all instruction,
- recreational activities,
- room and board June 29 – July 4 on the MSU Campus
- course materials and supplies
- camp risk insurance
- t-shirt

The option travel component of the program is $3,700, and includes the following:

- pre-departure orientation
- airfare, which may be subject to change due to fluctuations in flight costs
- hotels, transportation, most meals while in South Africa.

Not included in the travel component fee that students will need to cover:

- MSU tuition and fees* if earning MSU credits
- any additional airfare other than program flights listed
- some meals in South Africa
- personal spending money
- travel insurance

All students pay a $50.00 application fee with their application with the remaining residential fee of $400.00 paid after acceptance to the program. Students participating in the optional travel component to South Africa must submit an additional deposit of $450.00 with their application with the remaining travel fee of $3,250.00 paid after acceptance to the program. Full deposit will be returned to students who are not accepted into the program. Students earning MSU credits will be “e-billed” through their MSU NetID accounts.

Program costs do not include personal spending money or transportation to and from Michigan State University. It is the responsibility of a parent/guardian to arrange for the student to arrive by 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 29, 2008, and arrange for the student to be picked up on Friday, July 4, 2008 by 2:00. Lansing's Capital City Airport, located 20 minutes from Michigan State University, provides air transportation services for the mid-Michigan area. Parents are responsible for transporting their child from the airport to and from the MSU Campus from the airport. Michigan families must plan to meet their students at Detroit Metro Airport upon returning from South Africa.

*Non-MSU students pay a Lifelong Learner rate, regardless of state of residence.

PASSPORT INFORMATION:

Students should apply for their passport when completing their application. Due to the changes in the US laws, the processing time for passports has greatly increased. Passport forms are available at most post offices and can also be downloaded from the internet. If you already have a passport, make sure it is valid until at least six months after your return date.

PARENT/STUDENT ORIENTATION:

An orientation program will be held for students traveling to South Africa and their parents on the campus of Michigan State University on April 23, 2008. Program and travel information will be shared including health and safety issues, communication via phone and internet, banking, what items to bring and to pack, legal issues, etc. For out-of-state students and parents, an orientation packet will be sent with information on how to obtain answers to additional questions participants may have regarding the program and/or travel.
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 29
3:00 - 3:45 p.m.  Registration and check-in at the residence hall
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.  Welcome for students and parents

Monday - Thursday, June 30 – July 3
7:00 a.m.  Wake up
7:45 a.m.  Breakfast
9:00 - 9:50 a.m.  African lectures and discussion on modern Africa
10:00 -10:50 a.m.  African literature
11:00 - 11:50 a.m. isiXhosa language
12:00 p.m.  Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  African Music and Dance
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.  African Art
5:30 p.m.  Dinner
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.  Study time and group recreational activities
10:30 p.m.  Lights out

Friday, July 4
7:00 a.m.  Wake up
7:45 a.m.  Breakfast
9:00 - 9:50 a.m.  African lectures and discussion on modern Africa
10:00 -10:50 a.m.  African literature seminar
11:00 - 11:50 a.m. isiXhosa language
12:00 p.m.  Final Program
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  Check-out of residence hall
3:00  Students traveling to South Africa, depart for Detroit Metro Airport

Program schedule subject to change.

For Further Information

Please contact Kathee McDonald, Director of the Office of Gifted and Talented Education, MSU at 517.432.2129 or email: mcdon288@msu.edu.
ASSIGNMENT ASSESSMENT: (TRAVEL COMPONENT ONLY)

Students satisfactorily completing this course will receive two Integrative Social Science credits from Michigan State University. Two credits will cost $757.50. Students who wish to receive MSU credits must register prior to the start of the program by completing a MSU Application for Admission High Achieving High School Student form.

Readings:
- Required novel: Jooste, Pamela Dance with a Poor Man’s Daughter. An eleven-year-old girl grows up in the Coloured community of Cape Town under apartheid, surrounded by a group of strong women relatives.
- Second novel, biography/autobiography that you will each select once we arrive in Cape Town.
- Mike Telschow, Townships and the Spirit of Ubuntu, a photo-text on contemporary culture and society in the townships of Cape Town.

Films: Feature films and documentaries offer interesting and sometimes provocative perspectives of societies and cultures. In this spirit we will view a number of South African films, including:

U-Carmen eKaya�tisha
Max and Mona
Yesterday
Tsotsi
Drum
A World Apart
Red Dust

Writing
- Two three-to-five page reviews of (1) the required novel, (2) a novel, biography, or autobiography that the student will select once they are in South Africa (20% of final grade)
- Three one-page reviews of movies watched on the program (15% of final grade)
- Daily Journal: a daily journal is a valuable tool in assisting in understanding and interpreting your experiences in South Africa. As such, we will require that students keep a daily journal, to ensure that there is an honest record of thoughts and feelings. These will not be read. (5% of final grade)
- Newspaper Project: Post Apartheid South Africa has a strong, vibrant and independent press. Reading newspapers on a daily basis will provide us with the opportunity to follow current events in South Africa, understand what is important to South Africans, and gain alternative perspectives on events and issues that are of contemporary South Africa. Students will be required to read a newspaper each day (or more than one if one would like to get a comparative perspective on the news). As a key part of this assignment you will be required to select a story each day, read the related article(s) carefully, and write a two-to-three paragraph summary and critique of the story. In writing the report, the student can draw on relevant information from non-newspaper sources, for example, readings that were completed for the residential program, program lecturer/discussions, TV or radio reports, and conversations held with South African residents. (25% of final grade)
- Photojournalist Project: Disposable or inexpensive digital camera needed for the photojournalism project. We will provide you with detailed instructions for this project prior to our departure. (25% of final grade)

Active Participation: All students are expected to actively participate in all aspects of the program. It is a cliché, but true, that students will only get out of the program what students are willing to contribute. (10% of final grade)
WITHDRAWAL POLICY:
Residential program tuition can only be refunded if the student cannot attend because of a medical emergency or serious medical problem documented by a doctor. In order to receive a refund due to your withdrawal from the Explore Africa program, a written withdrawal letter will need to be sent to the GATE office. The date on which the notice is received will be the Date of Withdrawal. The notice must be written by you, the student, and can be in the form of a letter or email; a telephone conversation cannot be used to initiate a withdrawal. Please note that the deposit fee is non-refundable and not included in the following withdrawal/refund chart. The withdrawal policy is based on the start date of your program.

If the student purchases travel insurance, they would be able to recoup 100% of their investment, less the insurance premium and the agency travel penalty in the event that they cancelled due to illness or injury of anyone in their immediate family that would keep them from traveling. Therefore it is strongly recommended that parents purchase travel insurance. This should be purchased at the same time when sending in the final Explore Africa deposit. Purchasing a policy with trip cancellation will provide air ticket protection in the event the student has a change of plans. Websites such as www.travelguard.com can assist parents with travel insurance questions and policy cost.

Withdrawal Chart:

Please find below the amount of money for which you are liable given your date of withdrawal (written notification received by GATE Office):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days Before Program Start Date</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70+ days</td>
<td>Full refund less $400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-69 days</td>
<td>Lose 50% refund of program cost + $400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-39 days</td>
<td>Lose 75% of program cost + $400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-10 days</td>
<td>Lose 100% of program cost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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SOUTH AFRICA TRAVEL ITINERARY:

Saturday, July 5: Arrive in Cape Town in the late evening, travel to Riverview Lodge or Sea Point Holiday Flats, check-in.


Monday, July 7: 8:30 – 10:15: Interactive lecture/discussion: History of South Africa Part I with Dr. Metzler 10:30 – 12:30: Tour Iziko Museum; South African Museum (Natural and pre-history of South Africa) Lunch at Long Street 2:00 – 4:00: Tour Iziko Museum: Slave Lodge View the film Cape Point after dinner.

Tuesday, July 8: 8:30 – 10:15: Interactive lecture/discussion: History of South Africa Part II with Dr. Metzler. 10:30 – 12:00: Walking tour of the Malay Quarters Lunch of traditional Malay/South African meal In the afternoon, visit District Six site and museum. In the evening visit a jazz club, V & A Waterfront.

Wednesday, July 9: Tour of the Cape Peninsula including Cape Point and Boulders Penguin Park during the day. After dinner, view film Yesterday followed with a discussion of the HIV/AIDS crisis in South Africa. Complete the reading of Apartheid to Democracy.

Thursday, July 10: 8:30 – 9:30: Interactive lecture/discussion African Presence in the Eastern Cape. 9:45 – 10:45: Interactive lecture/discussion Artistic Expression in the Townships Lunch: Lelapa Restaurant in the Langa Township In the afternoon, take a social-cultural tour of townships. In the evening, Ellen Rosenberg shares reflections on her work with children in Cape Town’s townships.

Friday, July 11: Participate in a service-learning project with Chosa, a local community-based organization co-founded by an MSU Study Abroad alum. In the evening have a traditional Xhosa meal at Moyo’s Restaurant.

Saturday, July 12: Take a daylong drive along the famous Garden Route to the Eastern Cape. Stay overnight at Tsitsikamma National Park, a beautiful park on the Indian Ocean.

Sunday, July 13: Spend the morning hiking at Tsitsikamma National Park, in the afternoon there is an optional “Tree-Top Canopy Walk,” a nine-stage cable-walk at tree-top level. In the mid-afternoon, depart for Port Elizabeth and spend the night at the Beacon Lodge.

Monday, July 14: In the morning, visit New Red Location Museum in Port Elizabeth. There will be an interactive lecture/discussion on Apartheid with Janet Cherry, historian of the anti-Apartheid resistance in the Eastern Cape and an interactive lecture/discussion with Michael Barry, artist and art education on “Art as Protest Media.” In the afternoon, go to the Addo Elephant Park. In the evening, enjoy a group potluck at the game park.

Tuesday, July 15: Visit the Addo Elephant Park with game drives, horseback riding, etc.

Wednesday, July 16: Return to Cape Town.

Thursday, July 17: 8:30 – 10:15: Interactive lecture/discussion Resistant to Apartheid. 11:00: Take and educational tour of Robben Island with Eddie Daniels, former political prisoner on Robben Island. Robben Island is the island prison where Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the anti-Apartheid movement were jailed for more than 20 years. In the afternoon, weather permitting, take a cable care ride to the top of Table Mountain. In the evening, view Tsotsi, 2005 Oscar Winner for Best Foreign Language film.

Friday, July 18: 8:30 –11:30: Interactive lecture/discussion and tour: Environmental Issues in South Africa, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden. The Kirstenbosch Garden, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is considered to be one of the top ten urban botanical gardens in the entire world. In the afternoon enjoy free time. In the evening, attend a farewell group dinner at a restaurant on the V & A.

Saturday, July 19: Pack in the morning, depart in the afternoon for the United States.