

SOUTH AFRICA: CONTESTED TRANSITIONS

Student Evaluation

As was explained in class, each course participant is expected to evaluate her or his own work in History 48Q during the Winter of 2008/2009. As this learning experience draws to a close, it is important that each of us reflect on how well we have used it.

The major referent for this evaluation is **you**. That is, your comparison should be between where you started in January and where you are now. This is not the place for a comparison between you and other seminar participants. Nor is this the setting for your evaluation of the course, for which you will have a separate form.

To reiterate, the task here is to look carefully at **your own work**. That critical self evaluation is a very important element of any effective learning process. As I suggested in class, I think this evaluation can have significant educational value, regardless of whether or not the grade itself does.

A form for this evaluation is attached. On it you are asked to locate yourself along a series of continuums. Space has been provided for you to make additional comments; feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

The completed form is to be submitted no later than the last class meeting: **Tuesday, 10 March 2009**. If you wish, you may return it earlier. You will receive no grade for the course until this process has been completed.

Of course, these forms will remain confidential. They will not be available to anyone else without your express permission.

Joel Samoff
18 February 2009

Name _____ Topical Focus _____ Date _____

Preparation for Class

1) I was conscientious in doing appropriate and sufficient reading for each class session.

_____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
 read a bit read a reasonable amount read everything

2) I was resourceful and energetic in locating additional source materials on the topics discussed (beyond those listed in the syllabus).

_____ | _____ | _____ |
 read little read some read a great deal of
 additional material additional material additional material

3) I sought, located, and read regularly current sources of information on South Africa.

_____ | _____ | _____ |
 not at all occasionally daily

4) Each week, I used the course web site to comment on that week's topic and to respond to another class member's comments.

_____ | _____ | _____ |
 occasionally about half the time every week

Comments on preparation for class sessions:

Papers

5) I developed extensive skill/improved my skills in using the libraries.

_____ | _____ | _____ |
 relied largely on often also used regularly used special
 assigned readings web + Green collections, indexes

6) The reading I did on the topical focus I studied was both sufficient and appropriate.

_____ | _____ | _____ |
 limited adequate more than adequate truly voluminous

7) My analytic and critical skills improved substantially from the first to the second Analytic Essay.

I had difficulty sorting it out	much clearer sense of what the author said and how	very well focused and supported critique
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8) I regularly added information on my topical focus to my Course Notebook, and I regularly commented on the information I collected.

rarely	several times during the Quarter	weekly
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9) My Critical Essay was carefully organized, focused, imaginative, and well supported.

OK but not well focused or supported	clear and focused	critical, imaginative, and well supported
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10) My topics, and the necessary concepts and terms, were clearly defined.

too much ambiguity	adequate definition	very clear definition
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11) I provided empirical data to support my arguments.

barely adequate	adequate data	extensive empirical data
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12) My papers were not simply summaries of the works I consulted; substantial portions of my papers were my own analysis.

very little of my own analysis	some summary some analysis	mostly my own analysis
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13) I think my papers were successful efforts at critical analysis and/or synthesis.

not very successful	partially successful	very successful
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14) My papers were/will be submitted on time.

never (0/3)	sometimes (1/3)	usually (2/3)	always (3/3)
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Comments on papers:

Personal Learning and Intellectual Development

20) I have learned a great deal about South Africa in this class.

little learning	some learning	a great deal of learning
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21) I have developed my more general understanding and mastery of analytic and critical skills through my work in this course.

little development	some development	a great deal of development
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Comments on personal learning and intellectual development:

General comments and/or other criteria for evaluation you think appropriate (indicate here if you think some particular element of your work should have special weight in your final grade):

Grading is the instructor's responsibility. Based on your own serious reflection and evaluation, your contribution to that grade is very important.

In view of [underline whichever is/are appropriate]

- (1) my level of mastery of the subject,
- (2) my improvement since January,
- (3) other factors (specify): _____ ,
- (4) some magical combination of all of these factors,

I think my grade for this course should be _____.