



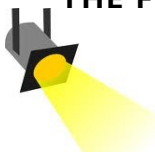
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THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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Instructor Spotlight: Clement Adibe



The passing of Nelson Mandela in December 2013 elicited strong emotions from many people around the world who fondly remembered the man whose long and dignified fight against apartheid in his native South Africa remains one of the most profound experiences of the 20th century. Our Focal Point seminar, *Apartheid in 20th Century South Africa*, pivots around Nelson Mandela, whose widely popular autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, we use as the primary source to investigate the meanings of apartheid, its origins, its effects on South Africans and their neighbors, and its eventual collapse.

Many students come to our class not knowing much about apartheid or Mandela. In fact, the typical student in our class was not born when South Africans abolished apartheid through the peaceful instrument of a heroic all-race election in 1994! Quickly, however, students come to grasp the historic significance of apartheid as a political aberration, not merely because of the racism

it legally instituted in South Africa, but also because of its inauspicious timing right after the end of World War II when many societies began to move away from institutionalized racism. Through videos and a wide array of essays and books, students explore the causal relationship between religion—a powerful force in South Africa—and the quest for profits or capitalism and apartheid.

Perhaps the most fascinating part of our class is the connection that students are able to make between the South African and American experiences. They ask broad questions about how truly *sui generis* the phenomenon of apartheid was in South Africa, considering the various manifestations of hate in many parts of the world. In doing so, our students bring apartheid from the realm of the past into the present. Remarkably, at the end, students are buoyed by how and why the apartheid story ended generally *peacefully* in South Africa, and by the magnanimity of the truth and reconciliation process that was instituted to guide the post-apartheid era. Such informed optimism in the human capacity for solving complex problems is a solid foundation on which our students can build their education at DePaul.

— Clement Adibe
Assoc. Professor
Department of History

From the Director

Chicago Quarter and Focal Point Seminar instructors from Spring 2013, Autumn 2013, and Winter 2014: Encourage your former students to enter the 2014 First-Year Program Writing Showcase. (You might send individualized notes to students with especially good writing from the class.) They have until April 7 to submit essays and/or e-Portfolios. Information and the application are on this link: http://las.depaul.edu/wrd/Programs/FirstYearWritingProgram/Writing_Showcase.asp. The Showcase will take place 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, in Cortelyou Commons.

Chicago Quarter instructors: You are invited to participate in an in-service for including Vincentian outings and discussions in your class. It will take place on Friday, April 25. I will send out more info in an email. Thanks go to Scott Kelley for setting this up. Scott is Assistant Vice President for Vincentian Scholarship in the Office of Mission and Values and on the Religious Studies faculty. He teaches the Discover Chicago class “Vincent de Paul, Vincentians and Chicago.”

Chicago Quarter instructors: Mark Friday, May 30, on your calendars for our annual Best Practices conference. Please note that the time and location have been changed to: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Student Center 120. Attendance is expected. As you remember, we have some major changes in Common Hour this year. All Explore Chicago classes will again have Staff Professionals, as Discover classes have all along. Plus, the Staff Professional will have a larger role in the execution of Common Hour, allowing the mentors more time to mentor. You’ll be hearing more about this at Best Practices and through other communications.

All FYP faculty: Please send me the names and email addresses of one or two of your best Chicago Quarter or Focal Point Seminar students. DePaul University is participating in the citywide “On the Table” event at which communities across the city will eat together and discuss the future of Chicago. Sixty students will participate in the dinner talk at the LPC Student Center on Monday, May 12. The Office of the President has authorized the First-Year Program to invite some of its best students to receive invitations. RSVPs will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis. Send me the student info at dlong@depaul.edu.

Enjoy a well-deserved Spring Break!

— Doug Long

Important Dates!

- Receipts for Winter Quarter reimbursements were due March 18. If you have not turned them in, do so ASAP.
- Friday, May 9: Focal Point Seminar Faculty Chat, 10:30 a.m. – noon, location TBA
- Wednesday, May 21: First-Year Program Writing Showcase, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Cortelyou Commons
- Friday, May 30: Best Practices, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Student Center 120 ★Note new time and location★