

**History 600**  
**The New South Africa:**  
**The Challenges of Transition in a Post-Apartheid World**

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The inauguration of Nelson Mandela as President on May 10, 1994 marked the end of an era of racial, social, and economic oppression in South Africa. Or did it? While many commentators have described South Africa's transition in miraculous terms, others have contended that much has remained the same. Even as the new, democratically-elected leaders have assumed their positions of political authority, South Africa continues to struggle with the legacy of discrimination and racism. This seminar explores the challenges of transition in post-apartheid South Africa. We will examine the historical roots of the current situation, the debates surrounding efforts to promote reconciliation, the contentious issue of how to redress the injustices of the past, the politics of memory, the HIV/AIDS crisis, and the challenges of rewriting South Africa's contested history. Examining these issues not only provides an understanding of the nature of the transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa, but also allows us to consider more generally the enduring legacy of colonialism in the contemporary world.