



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

June 2015

COURSE: Historiography of South Africa (HIS8X03)

TIME: 3 hours
MARKS: 300

EXAMINERS:

1. Dr Stephen Sparks
2. Prof Gerald Groenewald
3. Dr Nafisa Essop Sheik
4. Dr Lize Kriel (University of Pretoria, External)

(THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF 2 PAGES)

Instructions:

You are required to choose three of the six questions below, answering the questions in essay format. Each question is worth 100 marks. Make sure to set aside an hour for each question.

1. Discuss the various reasons – institutional, technical, ideological and in terms of historical practice and vision – why Afrikaner historians were so obsessed with the Rankean historical model during most of the twentieth century. How widespread were these beliefs and practices? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples. (100)
2. Discuss how the obsession with race influenced the type of history that South African liberal historians wrote. How did this contribute to their deviating from the sort of history that Rankean and Afrikaner nationalist historians wrote? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples. (100)
3. In what ways did Structuralist-revisionists challenge liberal interpretations of South African history? In what ways was the political and economic context of 1960s South Africa important to this historiographical shift? Be sure to reference specific examples in your answer. (100)
4. How did social historians working in the ‘revisionist’ tradition modify Structuralist-revisionist accounts of South African history? In what ways did the political climate of 1970s and 1980s South Africa influence this historiographical shift? Be sure to reference specific arguments, texts and authors in your answer. (100)

5. In 'Marxism, Feminism and Southern African Studies', Belinda Bozzoli provided a feminist challenge to South African revisionist social history writing. What were the problems she was attempting to address by introducing the concept of a 'patchwork quilt of patriarchies' and what, do you think, were some new ways of thinking about gender, society and culture that her intervention enabled for Southern African historiography? Please refer to Bozzoli, Morrell, Manicom and *any other* relevant South African history writing you have read this semester in your answer. (100)

6. Revisionist social historians studying modern South Africa were forced to take the 'cultural turn' because of the peculiar character of the country's industrialisation. Discuss with reference to specific authors, texts and arguments. (100)