

# Namibia Preparation C Term 2007

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# Why Change?

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- Advisor trip: Struck by the socio-cultural situation in Namibia
  - Post colonization and post-apartheid
  - Living conditions of many Namibians
  - No Mobile HIV/AIDS units
- Shape how students “see” these conditions
- Improve writing, critical thinking and cultural awareness
- Make appropriate contributions sponsors and communities

# What Did We Do?

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- Dropped the proposal as an output
  - Three essays and a project summary
- No “literature review” or “methods” *per se*
- Dedicated three classes to writing issues
  - How to read and evaluate arguments
  - How to frame arguments
- Dedicated half the classes to “history and culture”
  - Read academic literature, novels, non-fiction, films
- Adjusted PQP to support this structure

# Three Essays

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- Paper #1: Project Topics
  - Key topics/themes that would affect their projects
    - Problem statement
    - Course exercises & PQP
    - Primarily descriptive rather than analytical
    - Ten references minimum
- Paper # 2: Issues
  - Conversations within each theme
    - Problem definition
    - Causes
    - Solutions

# Three Essays (cont'd)

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- Paper # 3: Methods
  - How different scholars/interests measure the problem
- Project Summary
  - Synthesis of the above with some attention to project particulars

# History and Culture

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- Novels
  - Race relations pre and post-apartheid
- Non-fiction
  - Cameron, “Witness to AIDS”
  - Namibian oral histories
- Academic research articles
  - Environmental history
  - Political economy of SW Africa and Namibia
  - Governance since Independence
- Films
  - “Constructing” Namibia

# Supported in PQP

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- Buy-in from Fred
- Shifted conversation away from a “proposal” to raw materials for report
- Both advisors read and commented

# Some Benefits...

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- Students focused on learning to write not imposed structure
- Understood the context
- Sought experiences and shared them
- Took elements from papers
- Student writing was better, shared language
- Students open to changes in project

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