



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

NHIR 426: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

MAY/JUNE 2026

LECTURER: DR A M RUSERO

DURATION: 3 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

- a) Answer **THREE** questions in all.
- b) Answer a compulsory question in Section A and any two in Section B
- c) Section A carries **40 marks** and each question in Section B carries **30 marks**

SECTION A (COMPULSORY QUESTION)

Question 1

The crises in Venezuela, South Africa, and Zimbabwe can all be read as different facets of how coloniality and the afterlives of colonialism continue to shape political-economic

outcomes long after formal colonial rule has ended. In early January 2026, the United States launched a military operation on Venezuelan soil that resulted in Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, being seized by U.S. forces and transported to the United States to face federal charges. This extraordinary act involved strikes in Caracas and the forcible removal of a sitting head of state without Venezuela's consent, a move widely condemned as a violation of international law and national sovereignty. In southern Africa, the enduring legacy of colonial land dispossession and racialised inequality remains central to political and social crises in both Zimbabwe and South Africa. In Zimbabwe between 2000 and 2017, the land question was a flashpoint of unresolved colonial injustices. These struggles over land and authority cannot be divorced from colonial structures that once excluded the African majority from productive land and shaped post-independence state power. In South Africa, similar colonial and apartheid legacies of land and labour inequality persist decades after 1994, constraining meaningful economic transformation and fuelling popular demands for more substantive redress.

Critically analyse how the concept of coloniality of power continues to shape Africa's political, economic, and epistemic relations with the Global North. Using relevant scholarly texts, examine whether contemporary governance and development frameworks reinforce or challenge colonial hierarchies. Your answer must demonstrate how African intellectual traditions and political movements contest these structures. **[40 Marks]**.

SECTION B (ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS)

Question 2

Africa holds significant reserves of lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements, and other strategic minerals essential for the global green and digital economy. Evaluate whether Africa's role in global critical mineral supply chains represents a new form of colonial extraction or an opportunity for structural transformation. Discuss the extent to which African states and communities exercise agency in negotiating these arrangements. **[30 Marks]**.

Question 3

Using examples from selected African states, examine how indigenous political philosophies, liberation histories, and Pan-African ideals shape diplomatic practice and strategic choices. **[30 Marks]**.

Question 4

Analyse how AI reproduces existing global inequalities while simultaneously offering possibilities for African innovation and autonomy. **[30 Marks]**.

Question 5

Discuss how African actors in the form of states, regional organisations, intellectuals, and social movements actively co-produce global political norms, economic regimes, and security architectures. **[30 Marks]**.

End of Paper