

Doing Development Differently: Goedgedacht Farm's Praxis Approach

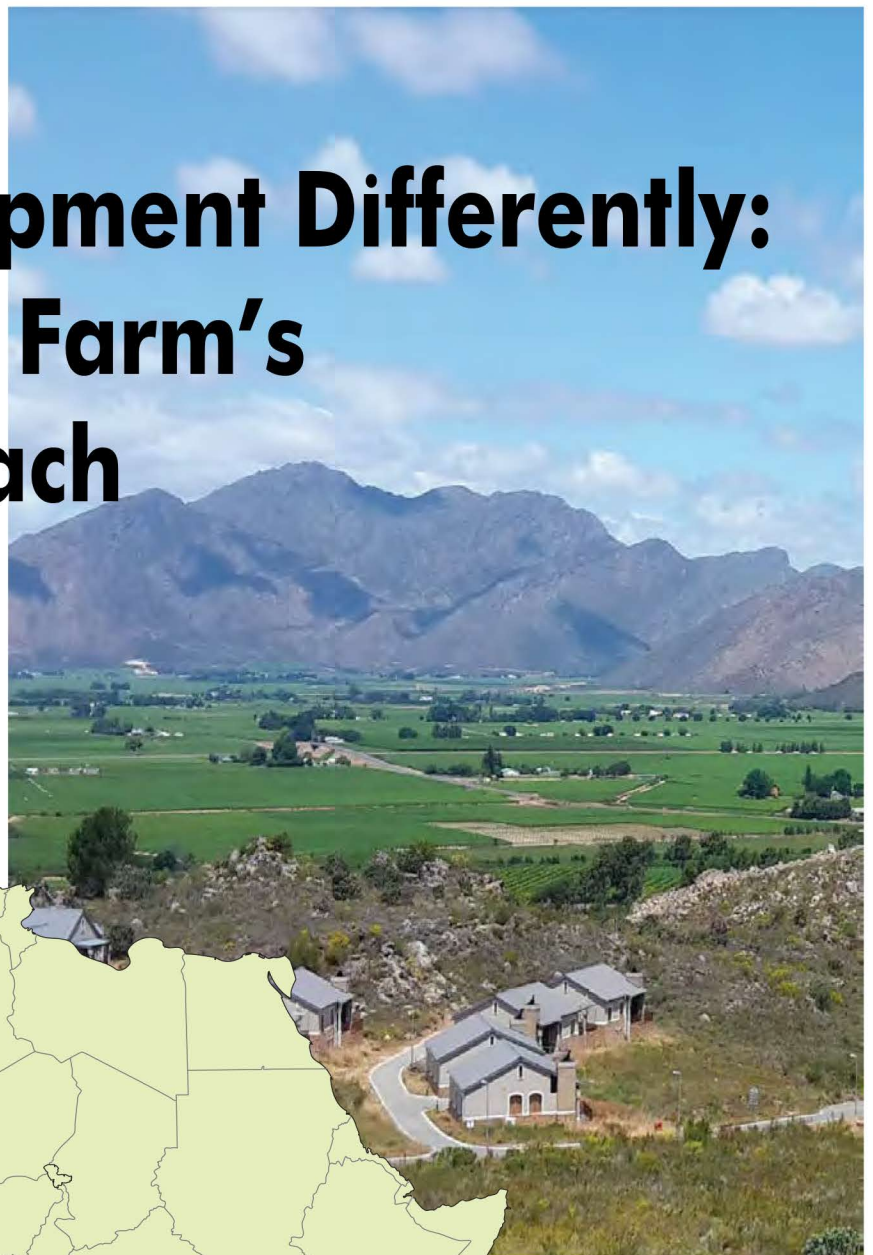
Spring Semester
(May - June 2024)

Since the overthrow of Apartheid and the historic 1994 elections, South Africa's vibrant democracy and progressive constitution have resulted in socio-economic and political transformation that has ushered in a new era of opportunity for black previously oppressed groups who were excluded by Apartheid policies. Nonetheless, after nearly three decades of post-Apartheid efforts, the country still struggles with high unemployment, crime and poverty rates, along with major challenges around the public provision of healthcare, housing, and education. Despite South Africa's transition to democracy, the country faces continued challenges - lack of economic growth and social and economic inequality that is most pronounced in rural communities.

About the program

Together with Goedgedacht Trust, their staff members and Emeritus Professor Kathy Lockett, Southern Sky Adventures is introducing the "Doing Development Differently: Goedgedacht Farm's Praxis Approach" program. This regional focus program encourages students to learn about race, class, gender, culture, public health, economics, development and the environment from a place of rural poverty and historical oppression.

The program provides students with an opportunity to experience and learn about



the ways local and national government, NGOs and local communities in the region approach challenges that are common not only to South Africa, but for many countries on the African continent; challenges such as overcoming the legacies of colonialism and racism and realizing development, human rights and reconciliation. The Goedgedacht Farm offers learning experiences on its projects that contribute to poverty alleviation, healthcare and education and environmental and ecological sustainability.

The program will draw on the extensive networks of the Goedgedacht Trust to facilitate the learning process. This includes working on issues such as community mobilization, gender and domestic violence, public health and environmental sustainability.

Program goals

The program's overall educational purpose is to foster a deeper understanding of the relationships between people and their natural and built environment, which is marked by poverty and inequality on the one hand and large-scale industrial agriculture on the other. We believe that the exposure students will gain in this context will enhance their capacity to work as agents for change and specifically social and environmental justice in other global contexts.

Location

The “Doing Development Differently: Goedgedacht Farm’s Praxis Approach” program is based on learning experiences in projects run by Goedgedacht Farm near Cape Town, South Africa and its surrounding rural communities. The Goedgedacht Trust and farm was established in 1990 with a commitment to building a sustainable natural environment and social support systems across the Swartland region in the Western Cape. Its goals are to enable rural communities to activate their potential - with a focus on nourishing their children, building healthy family relationships, and growing their own food. Goedgedacht farm is indeed an amazing place with an impressive multi-layered contribution to the local rural communities. This contribution includes the “Path Onto Prosperity” (POP) program that caters for the needs of children at different stages of their lives and the “Care for the Planet Program” that endeavors to raise environmental awareness and educate local farmers on new techniques for environmentally sustainable farming.



Co-Curricular Opportunities

There are numerous community service opportunities available through the program.

Program dates

The program begins in mid-May and ends early July.

Learning Outcomes

Students who participate in this program will:

- Understand Goedgedacht’s approach to development, including the asset-based method of working for change
- Learn how to engage with and learn from marginalized communities and the importance of relations of mutual reciprocity
- Learn how to recognize and harness the potential of communities engaged in development initiatives
- Understand of some of the structural constraints and unequal power relations involved in working for change
- Appreciate the role that reflection (of self and others) can play in processes of change and development.

Housing

Students will be housed in basic but comfortable dormitories on Goedgedacht Farm and all meals will be provided by the Goedgedacht kitchen.

Program Fee

The program includes tuition, student accommodation, daily meals, local transportation for program-sponsored activities and all on-site academic support and administrative fees.

Eligibility

Undergraduate college students taking majors in the Social Sciences broadly and/or pursuing career paths in Development, Education, Community Psychology, Youth and Community or Social Development, Regenerative Agriculture, Climate and Environmental Justice, etc.

Academic Credits

This program is not credit-rated. However, it may be recognized as contributing to curriculum enrichment, presenting a variety of opportunities outside of classroom through experiential learning or fieldwork.

For Further Information

Please contact:

Richard Pace of
Southern Sky Adventures
richard@ssa.email

Professor Emeritus
Kathy Luckett of
University of Cape Town
kathy.luckett@uct.ac.za

NOTE: Southern Sky Adventures and its affiliates reserve the right to alter selected program features described in this flyer as circumstances may demand and also to accommodate requests from particular universities and colleges!

