

Oral discussions – Examples

You are tasked with providing **three (Übung)** or **five (Seminar) theses** no later than one week before the date of your oral discussion, **covering at least two different topics (= sessions)** from our course. **For each thesis** you will have to provide **at least one academic source/reference in MLA style** (e.g. a journal article). At the beginning of your oral discussion, you will be informed which of your submitted theses you should present and elaborate on, followed by additional questions related to your arguments.

Thesis 1 (7th session):

Apartheid in South Africa “became the most notorious form of racial domination that the postwar world has known.” (Thompson 189)

Source:

Thompson, Leonard. *A History of South Africa*. 3rd ed., Yale Nota Bene, Yale University Press, 2001.

Your presentation during the oral exam could then include answers to the following questions, for example:

- What exactly was Apartheid in South Africa? What was its ideological foundation? Why was it “notorious”? How was it enforced?
- How does it compare to other forms of racial domination? Why was racial domination deemed necessary?

Thesis 2 (6th session):

The Apartheid regime banned the SACP with one of its first punitive laws, the Suppression of Communism Act (1950), an act that resembled McCarthyism in the United States and was the main reason why Apartheid governments continued to be supported and funded as a bulwark against communism by many Western Bloc countries.

Reference:

Borstelmann, Thomas. *Apartheid's Reluctant Uncle: The United States and Southern Africa in the Early Cold War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.