

ITP Research Form**ITP: South Africa, 2014**

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Karl Lutz

Research Group Members: Cecil Xhou, Marisha Pareek, Mara Houck, Shelby Sklar

Paper Title: **MINING IN SOUTH AFRICA: AN INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Abstract:

To fully understand the mining industry in South Africa, we explored a range of subtopics, developing a broad overview of the history of the mining industry, present day structure and issues, and cast some predictions about the future of mining in South Africa. Section One introduces our interview subjects. Section Two develops the history of the industry. Section Three gives insight into the current economics and demographics of the industry. Section Four develops the labor issues impacting the industry, including working conditions, strikes and their economic impact, Black Economic Empowerment issues, and labor union struggles. Section Five discusses legacy issues, which are problems the industry is confronting from the apartheid era, such as silicosis lawsuits (in this section we will also include the relevant regulatory framework for workers' compensation acts). Section six examines the regulatory framework currently in place for the mining industry, such as the Mineral and Petroleum Development Act, the Mining Health and Safety Act, environmental issues, and artisanal or "illegal" mining. This section also includes an overview of South African regulations and laws compared to international standards and select countries, both developed and less developed. All of these analyses will include a look to the future of the mining industry in South Africa, examining proposed and potential future legislation and predictions for economic, labor, and human rights changes.

Ultimately, we found that though post-apartheid South Africa has made leaps and bounds since its emergence as a democracy, and though it is considered an authority on mining in the international world, the mining industry is a prime example of the difficulties South Africa faces as a whole. Despite its new status as a democracy, the lack of communication between competing interest groups does not create the ideal habitat for reform in South Africa. The various overlapping voices within the mining industry are very much a metaphor for the conflicting groups in the nation at large: wrought with issues and unwilling to work with each other, but ultimately optimistic, with a common goal: to move forward in terms of transparency and stability and to establish South Africa as an international presence.