

Political Science 300
Post-Conflict Politics
Spring 2008
Prof. Griffiths

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This course examines the post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation process in war-torn societies. Among the topics covered are security sector reform, elections, institutional design, transitional justice, and economic stabilization efforts. The case studies will include societies recovering from the most extreme circumstances, that is, genocide, as well as those emerging from civil war/communal conflict. After taking the class, students will be able to do the following:

- specify the causes that give rise to conflict
- discuss the role of international law and institutions in peacemaking and peacebuilding
- identify the key factors to be addressed in reconstruction and reconciliation
- distinguish between strategies for reconciliation
- comprehend the complexity of re-building war-torn societies

Texts- *A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide* by Samantha Power and *Constructing Justice and Security After War* edited by Charles T. Call. There will also be additional reserve readings. Students are required to keep up with current issues through regular reading of *The New York Times* or *The Economist*.

Requirements- There will be a mid-term and a final exam. Students will also submit a 12-15 page research paper on a topic related to post-conflict transition. Topics must be discussed with me by 1/28/08. A draft introduction/proposal for your paper with a preliminary annotated bibliography will be due 2/6/08. The paper will be due 4/11/08. Late assignments will be penalized. There will also be a group project that will involve drawing up a post-conflict transition plan. Details of this assignment will be provided in a separate handout. Written assignments may not be submitted electronically without prior permission. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to discuss it. Class participation may help your final grade. Attendance is essential.

Reading Assignments-

1/14-1/21- The History of the Genocide Convention. Power, chap. 1-5.

1/28- Post-Conflict Issues. Hamme & Sullivan, "Toward Post-Conflict Reconstruction," *Washington Quarterly*, 25:4 (on Blackboard); Call, "Introduction;" Hartzell & Hoddie, "After the Fighting Stops: Security Concerns, Institutions, and the Post-Civil War Environment," in Caroline A. Hartzell & Matthew Hoddie, *Crafting Peace* (E-Reserve).

2/4-2/11- Cambodia. Power ch. 6; Michael W. Doyle, "Peacebuilding in Cambodia: Legitimacy and Power," in Elizabeth M. Cousens & Chetan Kumar, *Peacebuilding As Politics* (E-Reserve).

2/18-2/25- The Balkans- Power, ch. 9,11,12; Call, ch. 7,8.

3/3-3/17- Rwanda. Power, ch. 10; Call, ch. 6.

3/24-3/31- South Africa. Rod Alence, "South Africa After Apartheid: The First Decade"

(Blackboard); Call, ch. 5.

4/7-4/14- Latin America. Call, ch. 2, 4; Robert C. Orr, "Building Peace in El Salvador; From Exception to Rule," in Cousens and Kumar, *Peacebuilding As Politics* (E-Reserve).

4/21- Gender and Post-Conflict Transition. Call, ch. 10.

4/28- Conclusion. Call, ch.11.

5/5- Post-Conflict Transition Plan Discussion.