Syllabus

POLITICS OF RECONCILIATION: GLOBAL & LOCAL PERS - 62444

Last update 12-09-2013

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor) and 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Law

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Bashir Bashir

Coordinator Email: bashbashir@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:
  Dr. Bashir Bashir
Course/Module description:
Reconciliation is an extensively debated term with various and sometimes conflicting meanings. However, it is generally proposed that one of its key and most fundamental components is confronting past injustices. The attempt to come to terms with past injustices becomes even more demanding in the context of multicultural diversity. After briefly presenting the background against which the recent prominence of the politics of reconciliation in transition and consolidated democracies should be understood, the course presents and explores historical injustice, and major claims and types of reconciliation. Furthermore, the course aspires to suggest a typology through which students can navigate the extensive literature on reconciliation and the different meanings, layers, and aspects of the term. The course concludes with devoting few sessions to exclusively examine the relevance of the politics of reconciliation in the case of Israel/Palestine.

Course/Module aims:
The course aims to provide students with a good and critical grasp of the complexity and competing meanings and practices of reconciliation; to encourage students to think in an interdisciplinary manner; and to provide the groundwork for further research in debates of justice (retributive, transitional, restorative, distributive), nation-building in divided societies, reparations, apology, and truth and reconciliation committees/processes.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
1- Critically assess and compare processes of historical reconciliation.
2- Gaining basic skills to design policies of historical reconciliation.
2- Identify, analyse, and map out paths for historical reconciliation.

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Students are obliged to read to read the required readings and come to class prepared for discussion. After brief opening and contextualizing remarks by the instructor, the students are expected to debate the core themes under discussion. Thus the sessions of this class are premised on the assumption that the students have done the required readings.

Course/Module Content:
1- Introductory Session: Overview
2. Theorizing Reconciliation

3. Struggles for Inclusion and Reconciliation and Democratic Societies

4. Recognition, Rule of Law and other Key Normative Concepts

5. Legal Responses: Trials and Truth Commissions

6. Reconciliation and Justice: between Compatibility and Conflict

7. Religion and Reconciliation

8. Enacting Reconciliation: Acknowledgement, Apology and Reparation

9. Constitutional Design for Divided Societies

10. South Africa as a Paradigmatic Example: Successes and Failures

11. Overcoming Colonial Legacies: Reimagining the Boundaries of [We]- Australia

12. Between Peace Making and Historical Reconciliation in Israel/Palestine

13. Where Now for Israel/Palestine: Alternatives to Partition and Historical Reconciliation

14. Concluding Session: Exchange and Review

Required Reading:

1. Introductory Session: Overview

2. Theorizing Reconciliation
   Required readings:
   Verdeja, Ernesto, Theorizing Reconciliation, Unchopping a Tree: Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Political Violence (Temple University Press, 2009), Chapter 1, pp. 1-27.

3. Struggles for Inclusion and Reconciliation and Democratic Societies
   Required readings:
   Bashir and Kymlicka, Struggles for Inclusion and Reconciliation in Modern Democracies, in

4- Recognition, Rule of Law and other Key Normative Concepts  
   Required readings:  


5-Legal Responses: Trials and Truth Commissions  
   Required readings:  
   Verdeja, Ernesto, Institutional and Legal Responses: Trials and Truth Commissions, Unchopping a Tree: Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Political Violence (Temple University Press, 2009), Chapter 4, pp. 92-135.


6- Reconciliation and Justice: between Compatibility and Conflict  
   Required readings:  

7- Religion and Reconciliation  
   Required readings:  


8- Enacting Reconciliation: Acknowledgement, Apology and Reparation  
   Required readings:  
   Philpott, Daniel, ‘Four Practices: Building Socially Just Institutions, Acknowledgement, Reparations, and Apologies’, Just and Unjust Peace: AN Ethic of


9- Constitutional Design for Divided Societies
Required readings:


10- South Africa as a Paradigmatic Example: Successes and Failures
Required readings:


11- Overcoming Colonial Legacies: Reimagining the Boundaries of ‘We’- Australia
Required readings:


12- Between Peace Making and Historical Reconciliation in Israel/Palestine
Required readings:


13- Where Now for Israel/Palestine: Alternatives to Partition and Historical Reconciliation
Required readings:
Bashir, Bashir (2012), "Alternatives to Partition: A New Grammar in Israel/Palestine", This Week in Palestine, 173: 4-8.

14- Concluding Session: Exchange and Review

Additional Reading Material:
1- Introductory Session: Overview

2- Theorizing Reconciliation
No additional readings

3- Struggles for Inclusion and Reconciliation and Democratic Societies
Additional readings:

4- Recognition, Rule of Law and other Key Normative Concepts
No additional readings

5-Legal Responses: Trials and Truth Commissions
Additional readings:

6- Reconciliation and Justice: between Compatibility and Conflict
No additional readings

7- Religion and Reconciliation
No additional readings
8- Enacting Reconciliation: Acknowledgement, Apology and Reparation
Addtional readings:


9- Constitutional Design for Divided Societies
Addtional readings:

10- South Africa as a Paradigmatic Example: Successes and Failures
Addtional readings:


11- Overcoming Colonial Legacies: Reimagining the Boundaries of ‘We’- Australia
Addtional readings:


12- Between Peace Making and Historical Reconciliation in Israel/Palestine
Additional readings:


13- Where Now for Israel/Palestine: Alternatives to Partition and Historical Reconciliation
Additional readings:


14- Concluding Session: Exchange and Review

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 100 %

Additional information:
The method of assessment and evaluation in this course is a take home exam at the end of the sessions. There is no Moad B exam in this course.

The list of required readings is subject to changes