Carleton University

Department of Law and Legal Studies

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 4603B - Transitional Justice

TERM: Winter 2016

PREREQUISITES: Fourth Year Honour's standing

CLASS: Day & Time: Thursdays 11:30-2:30

Room: 506 Southam Hall (But **check with Carleton Central for current room

location)

INSTRUCTOR: DORIS BUSS

(CONTRACT)

CONTACT: Office: D495

Office Hrs: Thursday 3-5:00 pm or by appointment

Telephone: 613 520 2600 EXT 8011 Email: Doris.buss@carleton.ca

Academic Accommodations:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://carleton.ca/equity/

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://carleton.ca/equity/

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your *Letter of Accommodation* at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at http://carleton.ca/pmc/students/dates-and-deadlines/

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at http://carleton.ca/equity/

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Department Policy

The Department of Law and Legal Studies operates in association with certain policies and procedures. Please review these documents to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations.

http://carleton.ca/law/current-students/

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Transitional justice' broadly refers to the ethical commitments and different institutional mechanisms designed to assist a society transitioning from periods of conflict, authoritarian political rule, or violence. Some high profile examples of contemporary transitional justice processes include South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, instituted at the end of the Apartheid era, and the newly established (since 2002) International Criminal Court that prosecutes individuals accused of committing grave violations of international law. The recent expansion in the field of transitional justice is generally traced back to the use of trials and truth commissions in several South American countries transitioning from periods of authoritarian rule in the 1980s, as well as the establishment of new international courts in the 1990s and early 2000s to deal with specific conflicts related to the violent dissolution of Yugoslavia, the 1994 Rwanda genocide, armed conflict in Sierra Leone, and genocide in Cambodia. For the purposes of this course, we will focus on two main transitional justice mechanisms – criminal trials and truth commissions – to anchor our discussions of the role of law in facilitating social transition from periods of political violence and armed conflict. The objectives of the course are to:

- a. Introduce the expansive field of transitional justice and provide an opportunity to become familiar with some main types of transitional justice mechanisms;
- b. Explore the different 'transitional' needs in a society that has experienced violence, conflict, and/or authoritarian rule;

c. Consider the different harms and forms of violence experienced individually and collectively, and how these shape the need for and operation of different transitional justice mechanisms.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Course Materials, for purchase (see below)

Primo Levi. 1989. The Drowned and the Saved, and

Ronald Niezen. 2013. Truth & Indignation: Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools:

All are available for purchase from *Octopus Books*, 116 Third Ave, Ottawa, ON; tel: (613) 233-2589.

All other materials are available on line and/or in the Carleton library.

CELL PHONE/LAP TOP IN CLASS POLICY:

Cell phones MUST BE turned OFF and stowed away in a bag. They CANNOT be on your desk or in a pocket on your person. NO EXCEPTIONS. Lap tops are permitted in the classroom, but students are required to exercise good laptop etiquette: students who wish to achieve a good mark in this class need to pay attention to class material and discussion. Surfing the web, playing on social media are activities that distract you and your fellow students.

EVALUATION

(All components must be completed in order to pass the course)

Assignments:

Participation: 15%

- Online Participation: 6%

- Journal entries: 4%

- In-class Attendance: 5%

Critical comment on academic readings (complete 3) 30%

(Comment 1 = 5%; comment 2 = 10%; comment 3 = 15%)

Mid-term Quiz 15%

Final essay (due: 8 April, 2016, by midnight) 40%

Critical comments and Journals are due at the start of class on the week where the reading is scheduled and must be submitted via CU Learn. Late submissions within 24 hours will be accepted but with a 3 mark deduction. Submissions more than 24 hours late will not be accepted.

The topic of the final essay will be set by me and made available to the class in March. The final essay will be due by the end of the day 8 April 2016. No extensions will be given except for medical or personal emergency with supporting documentation. No exceptions to this rule will be made.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

a. <u>Participation</u>: Effective participation in and outside the classroom contributes to your own and other's learning. All students should attend as many classes as possible, having done all the readings, and having given some thought to the readings and themes of the course in relation to their everyday lives (current events, key developments in Canadian law and politics; interpersonal encounters and so on). Out of class discussions, attendance at events (speakers, forums) and on-line exchanges where ideas and concepts about transitional justice are considered, can also be important to the learning process.

In this course, and to underscore the importance of participation, students can earn participation marks in three ways: by attending classes regularly (maximum 5 marks); contribute to online discussion forums (see participation prompts scattered throughout the course syllabus – maximum 6 marks), and through two journal entries (journals are read by me only and are not made public – maximum 4 marks).

(i) journal entries: The journal entries are to be reflective; an opportunity for you to think and write about the class themes, drawing on your own experiences, ideas, reactions, books or movies you've read. Unlike other academic assignments, the structure is looser (it does not need to read like a university paper), and your contributions can explore directions that make sense to you. Full marks are awarded for journal entries submitted on time that make a clear effort to reflect on the questions/themes raised in the assignment.

Submit 2 from the following 3 journal assignments, using the appropriate links on CU Learn, and take careful note of the due date. <u>Journals are not made public and</u> are read only by me:

- 1. Journal Assignment 1 (due at the start of class Jan. 16): Reflect on an actual or imagined conflict/wrong in your own life or someone you know: perhaps an argument with a friend, or a dispute with your parents or an employer; or a wrong that was done to you/someone you know:
- How did the experience of conflict/wrong affect you/the person you know?

- How do you think the conflict/wrong impacted on relationships with friends/family/employers?;
- In an ideal world, how should the conflict/wrong been resolved best?
- 2. Journal Assignment 2 (due at the start of class 21 January): Reflect on the people in the Bosnian village showcased in the documentary we watched in class. How did they describe their relationships with neighbours before the war? What factors do you think the documentary makers were trying to highlight in explaining how and why those relationships broke down? What was the role of fear, for example? What do you think would be needed for the main couple highlighted in the documentary to be able to return to their home and live again among their neighbours?
- 3. Journal Assignment 3 (due at the start of class 4 Feb): Reflect on a movie, book, or TV show that focuses on a criminal trial (of whatever type). What happens in the trial to the characters involved (ie the witnesses, judges, lawyers)? What message do you think the show/book is trying to convey about the trial process; the events in the courtroom? How important do you think criminal trials are to your/popular conceptions of justice? How important do you think the 'fact' of a criminal trial the performance of prosecuting someone for an egregious violation of international law is to the idea of transitional justice?
- (ii) On-line participation: The course syllabus, in the right hand column, lists questions at different stages of the course that are meant to stimulate your thinking about the materials, course themes, and current developments. Students can post a response to these questions on the on-line forum for a mark. Students are also encouraged to post their own questions, discussions, reflections on the course forum. These can also be awarded marks where the content is substantive (reflecting course readings and discussions), respectful, and aimed at provoking discussion and reflection in yourself and others.

Timing: online posts that address the questions posed in the syllabus should be made at some point in the week where they are listed (ie the week running Monday – Sunday). Students can earn a maximum of 4, on-line participation marks during the period Jan 07- March 3; and a maximum of 2 marks during the period March 10-March 31, 2016 (ie, participation must be spread out over the term).

b. <u>Critical Comments</u>: You are required to write three comment pieces on articles selected from the course materials marked with an asterisk. You cannot produce more than one comment on readings from the same week and the comments are due at the start of the class on the week for which the article is listed.

A critical comment should be 3-4 pages long (but no more than 5), and provide a succinct and accessible overview of the article, identifying first: the author's main point, the underlying problem that gave rise to the author's intervention, and the means by which the author makes their argument (what tools of analysis do they draw upon;

what subjects/material do they explore): about 1 page. Second: raise and then explore questions and analytical lines of inquiry stemming from the article: what are the implications of the author's arguments for other readings and discussions in this course? What are the implications of the author's analysis for the other readings set for that week's class? And/or how does the article relate to/trouble themes discussed in class? (this section should be the heart of your assignment: about 2-3 pages).

Critical comment 1 will be marked with an emphasis on how accurately the student has capture the key arguments and significance of the article under review; critical comment 2 will be marked with an emphasis on the first set of criteria plus how well the comment marshals the review of the article to draw out key questions or themes related to transitional justice; and comment 3 will be marked in terms of the first two sets of criteria, as well as how well the comment draws on other course readings to challenge or extend the main arguments advanced in the article under consideration.

Please note.

- Comment 1: students must have written at least one critical comment from the readings marked with asterisk up to and including Feb 11;
- Comment 2: students must have written at least one critical comment from the readings marked with asterisk up to and including March 17.

CRITICAL COMMENTS ARE <u>DUE</u> (without exception) AT THE START OF THE CLASS for which THE READING IS ASSIGNED. Students who fail to complete a critical comment within the established time frames (above) will receive a 0 for that assignment.

c. <u>Final Essay:</u> This will be on a topic set by me and distributed in class in March. The essay topic will require that you draw extensively on the course readings and class discussion/materials to explore a particular problem or themes/challenges emerging from the field of transitional justice. This is not a research assignment but will require that you have read and followed the course material, including class discussion, closely throughout the term. Further guidance and information will be distributed in class.

SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week	Themes and Readings	Assign't
1.Jan 7	Introduction:	none
	 International Centre for Transitional Justice, "What is 	
	Transitional Justice" at <u>www.ictj.org</u>	
	"Stolen Children-Residential Schools Survivors"	
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdR9HcmiXLA	
	CBC clip of Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada,	
	final event: http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/truth-and-	
	reconciliation-looking-back-on-a-landmark-week-for-canada-	
	<u>1.3102956</u>	
	 http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for- 	
	banning-laptops-in-the-classroom	
	Samming rapeops in the siassissin	
	Class discussion – please note: this class will run the full time allotted:	
	review course materials and assignments; introduction to the tonic of transitional institution.	
	 introduction to the topic of transitional justice discussion of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission 	
	 and what transition might mean in a Canadian context; review parts of the documentary "Finding Dawn" to consider 	
	different ways of conceiving harm, wrong and the challenges to	
	reconciliation.	
	T COOTION ACTORN	
2. Jan 16	What do we mean by violence, conflict and harm	Journal
		assignment 1 due
	Naomi Roht-Arriaza. "The New Landscape of Transitional	
	Justice." Naomi Roht-Arriaza and Javier Mariezcurrena, eds.	
	Transitional Justice in the Twenty-First Century: Beyond Truth	
	Versus Justice. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pages	
	1-16;	
	 Johann Galtung. 1969 "Violence, Peace and Peace Research", 	
	Journal of Peace Research 6(3): 167-191;	
	a note, this is an older piece of scholarship that has had an	
	 note: this is an older piece of scholarship that has had an enormous influence on how we think about and study 'violence'. 	
	The piece, written in the late 1960s, has a formal, somewhat	
	outdated authorial 'voice'. It might take a bit of work for you	
	the reader to look beyond the strange cadence of the writing,	
	but as you do so, consider how Galtung's approach to the study	
	of violence would shift how you might understand violence in	
	relation to, for example, residential schools, missing and	
	murdered aboriginal women, or the violence that unfolds during	
	civil wars, as in the case of the former Yugoslavia	
	 http://www.icty.org/en/about/what-former-yugoslavia 	
	The state of the s	l .

- http://www.icty.org/en/about/what-former-yugoslavia/conflicts
- Prosecutor v. Tadic: http://icty.org/x/cases/tadic/tjug/en/tad-tsj70507JT2-e.pdf
 This is the trial judgment of the first criminal court case by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia:

Read paragraphs 55 - 113; 118-122; 147-153

This is the Tribunal's summary of the events leading up to the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and then specifically in the country we now know as Bosnia Herzegovina, and then specifically in one region of Bosnia. There are a lot of acronyms here and different military organizations. In reading this section, try to keep an eye on which details the court is including in its summary, as well as attending to what the main 'story' the judges are trying to tell about WHY and HOW this conflict emerged. Why do you think the judges are emphasizing the details about armies, for example? What are the main arcs of the story about what happened in Yugoslavia, and what happened in Bosnia?

• Read paragraphs 154-179:

In this section the Tribunal summarizes some – not all – of the extreme, disturbing findings about human rights abuses committed against civilian populations in this one area of Bosnia. This is disturbing reading but it is important to understand the kinds of behaviours and experiences that characterized this conflict so that we can better understand the reasons why an international criminal court was established to bring war crimes charges, first, and second, the challenges facing this society when it was time to rebuild after the conflict.

3. Jan 21 "The Former Yugoslavia" and the International Criminal Tribunal for Journal Yugoslavia (ICTY) assignment 2 due "Flowers in the Square", International Centre for Transitional **Critical Comment** of Wald Justice, https://www.ictj.org/flowers-square-prijedor/; *Patricia M. Wald. 2008. "Foreword: War tales and war trials" On-line Michigan Law Review 106: 901-923 (on-line, Carleton); participation (1 • International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia: mark): About: http://www.icty.org/en/about Mandate and Statute: Read Ariel Diane Orentlicher. 2010. "That Someone Guilty be Punished': Dorfman's poem: The Impact of the ICTY in Bosnia", Open Society "Hope", poem: Initiative/International Centre for Transitional Justice; pp. 8-10; Post on the 11-19; 26-27; 30-46. course discussion forum: what do you think the poem is about? What kinds of harm does the poem speak to? What kinds of challenges to 'transition' might flow from those harms? 4. Jan 28 **Sexual Violence and Gendering International Criminal Law Critical comment** of Boose or • *Lynda E. Boose. 2002. "Crossing the River Drina: Bosnian Rape Boesten; Camps, Turkish Impalement, and Serb Cultural Memory" Signs On-line 28(1): 71-96; *Jelke Boesten. 2010. Analyzing Rape Regimes at the Interface participation (max 2 marks): of War and Peace in Peru", International Journal of Transitional Justice 4: 110-129; Write a post on 1 Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul Akayesu, ICTR-96-4-T, 2 Sept 1998, or more of these paragraphs 112-129; 142-156; 416-460; questions: What are the different http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/28/japan-toways that the say-sorry-to-south-korea-in-deal-to-end-dispute-over-wartimeissue of Japanese sex-slaves 'sex slaves' in http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2015-12-28/how-WWII have tried korea-s-deal-with-japan-fails-comfort-womento draw attention to their suffering This class also introduces students to different international courts – (hint: you will the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the permanent need to do some International Criminal Court. Students should also consult the ICC

research on the

webpage and review the different parts of the court described in the	internet)? Why
'About the court' section: https://www.icc-	do you think
<pre>cpi.int/en_menus/icc/about%20the%20court/Pages/about%20the%20c</pre>	there has been
<u>ourt.aspx</u>	resistance to
	accepting
	responsibility for
	the harms to
	these women?
	Does it matter
	now, when so
	many of the
	women have
	already died, for
	Japan to
	apologise? Why?

5. Feb 4	 Srebrenica and Genocide Prosecutor v. Krstic, ICTY trial judgment: paragraphs: 1-96; 539-540; 542-547; 550-556; 559-562; 569-584; 590-599; 622-624; 631-635. Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro), International Court of Justice, summary of decision: 	Journal assignment 3 due Critical comment of Sheffer or Minnow articles
	 https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/11/issue/9/world-court-finds-serbia-responsible-breaches-genocide-convention-notICTY *David Sheffer. 2006. "Genocide and Atrocity Crimes" Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal, 1(3): *Martha Minow 2006. "Naming Horror: Legal and Political Words for Mass Atrocities" Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal, 	
6. Feb 11	 *Primo Levi. The Drowned and the Saved; [students are required to buy this book from Octopus books] – read the whole book; *Erin Baines. 2011. "Gender, Responsibility and the Grey Zone: considerations for Transitional Justice", Journal of Human rights 10: 477-493;. What is the 'grey' zone? How can Auschwitz possibly described as having 'grey' zones? In various ways in the book, Levi refers to himself as 'lucky'. Do you agree? Ongwen's Justice Dilemma: Perspectives from Northern Uganda, Refugee Law Project report, 2015; https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/01/09/qa-lra-commander-dominic-ongwen-and-icc 	Critical comment of Levi or Baines readings; On-line discussion (1 mark): Do you agree with Erin Baines' description of the grey zone between perpetrators + victims in the case of northern Uganda? What are the implications for transitional justice if we recognize a blurring of the boundaries between perpetrators and victims?
7. Feb 18 8. Feb	READING WEEK – no class TJ as truth Seeking	Critical
25 th	10 do 1. d. 1. deckin. 6	comments on

	 *Wilson, Richard "Judging history: the Historical Record of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia" Human Rights Quarterly 27: 908-942; *Nevin T. Aiken. 2015. The Bloody Sunday Inquiry: Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconciliation in Northern Ireland, Journal of Human Rights 14(1): 101-123; *Brenna Bhandar, 2004. "Anxious reconciliation(s): unsettling foundations and spatialized history" Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 22: 831-845. Priscilla Hayner, 2001. Unspeakable Truths: Transitional Justice and the Challenge of Truth Commissions. Routledge: Chapters 1, 2 and 3 (pp. 1-31). 	Wilson, Bhandar, or Aiken articles
9. March 3	Mid-term quiz – details TBA	Quiz
10. March 10	 What Does 'Reconciliation' mean? South Africa *Claire Moon. 2006. "Narrating Political Reconciliation: Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa" Social & Legal Studies 15(2): 257-275; *Judith Renner. 2014. "The Local Roots of the Global Politics of Reconciliation: The Articulation of 'Reconciliation' as an Empty Universal in the South African Transition to Democracy" Millenium 42(2): 263-285; *Fiona Ross. 2003. "On Having Voice and Being Heard: Some After-Effects of Testifying Before the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission" Anthropological Theory 3(3): 325 - 341; 	Critical Comments of Moon, Renner, or Ross articles. On-line participation: Is it possible to have multiple truths for there to be meaningful 'transitional justice'? why or why not?
11. March 17	 Canada's History of Colonization and Residential School System: Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, pp. 41-70; 71-121; *Kathleen Mahoney. 2014. "The Settlement Process: A Personal Reflection", University of Toronto Law Journal 14(4): 505-528; *Sue Campbell, "Remembering for the Future" in S. Campbell, C Koggel, R Jacobsen, Our Faithfulness to the Past: the Ethics and Politics of Memory, OUP, 2014, Ch. 7 (pp. 136-164) TRC Mandate (Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, Schedule N): http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=7 	Critical Comment of Mahoney or Campbell articles On-line discussion: What is required in order for remembering to be an ethical act aimed at reconciliation?

12. March 24	 *Ronald Niezen, Truth & Indignation: Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools. U Toronto Press 2013: pp. 15-20; Ch 2: pp. 25-39; Ch 4: 58-79; *John Borrow. 2014. "Residential schools, respect, and responsibilities for past harms", University of Toronto Law Journal 14(4): 486-504. What we have learned: Principles of Reconciliation, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, pp. 113-126 	LAST chance to do a Critical Comment of Niezen or Borrow readings. Final assignment made available and discussed in class
March 31	No class – assignment work	Special office hours
13. April 8	Final assignment due	