THE POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE
PLSC 28812 Winter 2014
Department of Political Science
The University of Chicago

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course addresses the major theoretical debates and empirical trends in accountability for atrocities and human rights violations and the political dynamics of international and domestic justice institutions. By bridging the field of international relations with international law and comparative politics, students in this course will gain an understanding of the globalization of accountability and post-conflict societal transitions from violence to peace. There are three sections that include a total of six topics:

INTRODUCTION: DEFINING THE FIELD
I. Law, Justice, and Reconciliation
GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF ACCOUNTABILITY
II. International and Hybrid Tribunals
III. International Criminal Court
IV. Peace versus Justice
DIFFUSION OF LOCAL JUSTICE
V. Truth-Telling and Truth Commissions
VI. Local “Traditional” Justice

The case studies selected are global in scope but with a sustained focus on Africa. This is a lecture course that is open to upper level undergraduate students.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
• Gain a comprehensive understanding of the theories and approaches to transitional and international justice, and an in-depth understanding of specific case studies of post-conflict states and justice institutions
• Identify the policy relevance of theoretical arguments and vice-versa
• Develop critical analysis skills through written assignments and participation
• Participate frequently and contribute to class discussion and the on the blog in a manner that is intelligent, productive, and considerate

REQUIRED READINGS & ONLINE MATERIALS
There is no textbook to purchase for this course. All of the reading materials are available electronically through direct web links or on our Chalk site. (Journal articles are also available through the library’s e-journals collection.) You are expected to have read all the assigned material prior to the relevant lecture.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>25%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Essays x3</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing in class and online blogging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadlines determined by topic</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Inadequate, below minimum standards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Participation (25%)

Participation grades will be determined by oral participation in class and postings on our course blog. You must keep up with the readings and attend class in order to do well and be fully engaged in participation.

**In Class Participation**

You will be expected to participate frequently during class and small group discussions by asking questions, and responding to your classmates and questions that I pose. The following are general guidelines and evaluation criteria for participation in class:

**A** Exceptional contribution, characterized by being an outstanding participant in the small group and frequently contributes during lecture discussion. The student’s participation helps to generate more and better discussion within the group. Peers and the instructor learned a great deal, gained insights, and responded well to students’ comments.

**B** Substantial contribution, characterized by meaningful involvement that added to the discussion. He or she offered provocative and relevant comments or questions and participation was relevant to the readings and class questions.

**C** Expected contribution, characterized by meaningful involvement that added to the process. He or she participated consistently but not frequently. The student showed willingness and understanding during the discussion. Comments or questions were somewhat linked to the readings and class questions.

**D** Marginal and infrequent contribution, characterized by minor involvement that added little to the discussion. The student's knowledge of the reading could be inferred but was not directly linked or stated.

**F** Insignificant contribution, characterized by a failure to display interest or make relevant comments. The student listened but not intently and did not utilize reading material when making comments.

**Blog Postings**

Our course blog can be found at: [http://politicsofjustice.wordpress.com](http://politicsofjustice.wordpress.com)

You are required to post once a week and your postings must be between 100-200 words. Each post can be a contribution to an ongoing conversation thread, by responding to other students’ posts or questions I pose, or you can start a new conversation thread by posing your own questions and commentary. Responding to threads is preferred, as the aim is to create a dialogue instead of a series of individual posts. At the end of the semester you will submit for evaluation what you consider to be your
best 5 posts. More details on guidelines and tips for blogging and evaluation will be distributed separately.

**Essays (75%)**
You are required to write three response essays (6-7pgs each) for two different course topics. You will be required to write one on the introduction section of the course, the second from a topic of your choice in the second section, and a third from a topic of your choice in the third section. In these essays, you will explore a specific theme or debate in the assigned material. You must rely primarily on the material in the assigned readings and lecture content. These are not research essays and you can only use minimal additional research (i.e. 1-2 sources). The essays are due in hard copy and in class on the following dates:

**Section 1: Required**
Law, Justice and Reconciliation: Jan 16

**Section 2: Choose One**
International and Hybrid Tribunals: Jan 28
International Criminal Court: Feb 11
Peace versus Justice: Feb 20

**Section 3: Choose One**
Truth-Telling and Truth Commissions: Mar 4
Local “Traditional Justice: Mar 12

**GENERAL POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

**ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments and examinations must be completed and all classes must be attended. Any requests for extensions, alternative exam dates, excused absences, etc. will only be considered if accompanied by documentation explaining a personal or medical situation that would justify such an accommodation. In the event of such circumstances, notify me as soon as possible and not after the exam and assignment due dates have already passed.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Students should familiarize themselves with university policies and sanctions for academic honesty.

- [https://college.uchicago.edu/policies-regulations/academic-integrity-student-conduct](https://college.uchicago.edu/policies-regulations/academic-integrity-student-conduct)

All written work submitted by students must be original in conception, organization, and phrasing. Sources must be appropriately acknowledged, including online materials. Work submitted in this course for evaluation must not be, or have ever been, submitted in other courses. Any violations of the University’s policies may result in sanctions ranging from a failing grade on the assignment to expulsion.

**QUESTIONS & ASSISTANCE:** First, make sure you cannot answer your own question by reviewing the syllabus, asking a friend in the class, or looking something up online. Otherwise, quick questions regarding course content and assignments can be directed to me or the teaching assistant by email. If you have questions that require a more lengthy or private discussion, such as grading of an assignment, evaluation of your progress, assistance in understanding course material, etc., please see me during office hours.

**ATTENDANCE:** Arrive to class on time. Arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful. Repeated and excessive tardiness will negatively affect your participation grade.

**CLASS BEHAVIOR:** Exhibit responsible, attentive, and mature behavior in class, and this means avoiding any of the following: napping, talking to classmates during lecture or while others are speaking, using cell and smart phones, using your laptop for anything other than taking notes and class activities, consuming anything other than a quick snack or beverage, etc.

Be respectful of your classmates! Listen to them, learn their names, respect opinions, embrace diversity, and learn from each other.
# LECTURE AND READINGS SCHEDULE

## INTRODUCTION: DEFINING THE FIELD

**LAW, JUSTICE, AND RECONCILIATION (Jan 7, 9, 14)**


## GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

**INTERNATIONAL AND HYBRID TRIBUNALS (JAN 16, 21, 23)**


**THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (Jan 28, 30, Feb 4, 6)**

Schiff, Benjamin N. *Building the International Criminal Court*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008: Ch 3 68-92, Ch 6 165-193


**PEACE VERSUS JUSTICE (Feb 11, 13, 18)**


**TRANSNATIONAL DIFFUSION OF LOCAL JUSTICE**

**TRUTH-TELLING AND TRUTH COMMISSIONS (Feb 20, 25, 27)**


LOCAL “TRADITIONAL” JUSTICE (Mar 4, 6, 11)
http://www.idea.int/publications/traditional_justice/upload/Chapter_1_Introduction_tradition-based_approaches_in_peacemaking_transitional_justice_and_reconciliation_policies.pdf


http://www.idea.int/publications/traditional_justice/upload/Traditional_Justice_and_Reconciliation_after_Violent_Conflict.pdf