Course Description

In response to recent violence by Boko Haram in Nigeria and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda, this course will introduce students to recent debates among academics, policy-makers and activists on both how we should understand the causes and structural terms of large-scale violence in Africa and on the main contemporary models for reconciliation and transitional justice. The predominating Nuremberg model of transitional justice—structured around international military intervention and trials based in international criminal courts—will be contrasted with other models, especially the South Africa model, that shift the focus onto the question of how best to effect long lasting political reconciliation for formerly divided communities. The necessity of a deep understanding of global, regional and local historical and structural contexts will be examined with respect to case studies covering South Africa, Rwanda, Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), Sudan and Darfur, South Sudan, Boko Haram and Nigeria, CAR, and Libya, as well as comparative discussions on historical violence in Nazi Germany, and the former Yugoslavia. Class material will include readings by Hannah Arendt, Adam Branch, Mahmood Mamdani, Thabo Mbeki, Samantha Power, and John Prendergast, as well as videos of Senate Foreign Relations Committee and academic debates, the recent film Hannah Arendt (2013), and activist films (Kony2012).

Course Readings

The following books have been ordered at the U of O Bookstore. All readings other will be available online or posted for you in PDF format on the class website:

- Samantha Power, "*A Problem from Hell: America in the Age of Genocide*, 2013.

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined according to the following criteria:

**Two Mid-term exams** (25% each)
- Take-home and open book.

**Class participation** (20%)
- Full attendance, fully prepared on the readings, and engaged in class discussions.

**Lead class discussion 2X** (15% each)
- Each student will sign up to introduce the week’s readings and lead class discussion twice during the term. Presentations should be 5-10 min. and discuss the reading for that class by reviewing the most important points raised by the author and then concluding with a few brief critical comments. The goal will be to show you understood the readings and ensure that the rest of us do as well.

Course Policies
Class participation and preparation: Parts of this course will be based on seminar-style discussion on the readings. As such, it will emphasize each student’s active collaboration in class discussions based upon careful and sustained critical attention to the readings. This will put a premium on class preparation, attendance and participation.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Students, however, may be absent from one class, but absence from any further classes will require the permission of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Part I: Conflict and Reconciliation in Africa: The Nuremberg Legacy

March 30-April 1: Course Introduction: Rethinking the Nuremberg Legacy for Africa?


Part II: Should We Rethink the Nuremberg Model for Africa?

April 6: The South African Model: Peace, Inclusion and Democratic Transition

Mahmood Mamdani, “The Logic of Nuremberg,” LRB, Nov. 7 2013 (Courseworks).

April 8: The African Union (AU) and International Intervention: The Libya Case


Part III: The Nuremberg Model and Its Historical Development: Nazi Germany, Bosnia, Rwanda

April 13: WWII, Nazi Germany, and the Holocaust

Samantha Power, Problem from Hell: Ch. 2-4.

Film: Hannah Arendt (2013)

April 15-20: Bosnia

Power, A Problem from Hell: Ch. 8.

April 22-27: Rwanda

Power, A Problem from Hell: Ch. 10.

April 29: Midterm Exam Review
Part IV: Primary Case Study: Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA)

May 4: Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) 1

Adam Branch, *Displacing Human Rights*, Introduction, Ch. 1.

May 6: Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) 2

Branch, *Displacing Human Rights*, Ch. 2.

May 11: Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) 3

Branch, *Displacing Human Rights*, Ch. 4-5.

May 13: Uganda, the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) 4

Branch, *Displacing Human Rights*, Ch. 6-7.

Part V: Four Contemporary Case Studies: Darfur, South Sudan, CAR, Nigeria

May 18: Sudan and Darfur


May 20: South Sudan

Video: Senate Foreign Relations Committee: Situation in South Sudan, March 14, 2012, C-Span.


May 25: Memorial Day: No class

May 27: Central African Republic

Bloggingheads debate: Central African Republic
Mark Goldberg (UN Dispatch, Global Dispatches Podcast) & Louisa Lombard (University of California-Berkeley, Foole's No Man's Land)

June 1: BOKO Haram and Nigeria

June 3: Exam review