

POLS*3360 Transitional Justice

Credit Weighting: 0.50**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** POLS*2100 or
POLS*2200**Restrictions:** none**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Adam Kochanski**Email:** adam.kochanski@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MCKN 532**GENERAL DETAILS**

The course explores how societies emerging from periods of conflict and repression respond to the legacies of massive and serious human rights violations. It critically analyzes the theory of transitional justice, and its operation in practice, surveying measures to provide truth, justice, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence. The course considers post-conflict and post-authoritarian situations, as well as settler colonial contexts like Canada. Part I begins with a conceptual and historical genealogy of the field. Part II uses this foundation to survey common instruments in the TJ "toolkit," namely trials, truth commissions, reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition. Part III of the course engages with cross-cutting themes and encourages students to critically appraise the teleological foundations of the field and its applicability to non-transitional settings.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The main learning objective of this course is to provide a basic understanding of transitional justice. In addition, the course contributes to: (1) Critical and Creative Thinking: Students will practice reaching their own conclusions through a range of evidentiary sources and disciplinary lenses, thereby, improving their inquiry and analysis skills and depth and breadth of understanding; (2) Literacy: Students will strengthen their information literacy through coursework and written assignments, as well as their visual literacy through lecture content and a video assignment; (3) Global Understanding: Students will improve their global understanding and sense of historical development through an in-depth examination of the historical, conceptual and theoretical development of transitional justice, as well as its application in several case studies spanning geographical regions, cultures and religions; (4) Communicating: Students will enhance their written and oral communication skills; and (5) Professional and Ethical Behaviour: This is a challenging, reading-intensive course with multiple and competing deadlines that will present students with an opportunity to cultivate effective personal organization/ time management skills.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Components of the Final Grade (please note that these are tentative and subject to change):

- 10% - In-class critical reflections
- 10% - Test (in-class, sit down)
- 20% - Group presentation
- 30% - Mid-term exam (in-class, sit down)
- 30% - Final assignment - TJ Policy

REQUIRED READING

There is no assigned textbook for this course.

This is a reading-intensive seminar course consisting of ~2-3 required readings (approx. ~50 pages) per week (mostly scholarly articles, but also book chapters and online commentaries), which will be available for download through CourseLink.