

COURSE DETAIL

THE AFTERMATH OF ATROCITY: A COURSE ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Maastricht University – University College Maastricht

Program(s)

University College Maastricht

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science Legal Studies

UCEAP Course Number

104

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

THE AFTERMATH OF ATROCITY: A COURSE ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION

UCEAP Transcript Title

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

The course introduces and defines the field of transitional justice. It looks into its historical evolution and address the rationales underlying it. The introduction furthermore includes an overview of the main mechanisms/components that can be part of the process of transitional justice and how they are interrelated. The course subsequently addresses several of these transitional justice mechanisms and this analysis predominantly focuses on the perspectives of the victims. Victims (and survivors) are not only a group, but also individual human beings and their wishes and interests in the aftermath of large scale conflict can be very diverse and even contradict the wishes of other victims or the group as such. In this context specific attention is given to the impact of violent conflict on women and children. Throughout the course critical attention is paid to the following justice mechanisms: apologies and forgiveness, memorialization and commemoration, truth telling and truth commissions, pardons and amnesties, compensation, restoration, restitution, international and regional criminal courts and tribunals, lustration, and vetting. The analysis concludes with a discussion of the various justice mechanisms and their potential to contribute to (or jeopardize) sustainable peace. In addition to issues such as justice and reconciliation, other matters are also significant in post-conflict societies as they greatly affect the consolidation of peace and stability. Justice and reconciliation only form one pillar of reconstruction, but also in other areas constructive action is required. Such other areas of concern include, for instance, security, wellbeing, and governance. The course therefore looks into the process of reconstruction and discusses which actions are required in order to move from the precarious early stages of post conflict transition to a more sustainable situation which allows for the consolidation of peace and stability. Case studies play an important role throughout the course and therefore a wide variety of cases are covered including The Holocaust and other cases of genocide (Armenia, Australia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Srebrenica, Darfur, etc.). Although cases of genocide play an important role in this course, the case load is certainly not limited to genocide and other violent conflicts in Chili, Argentina, Guatemala,

Indonesia, East Timor, Iraq, Syria, Congo, Central African Republic, are addressed, along with the torture practices of the U.S.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

SSC3052

Host Institution Course Title

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Host Institution Course Details**Host Institution Campus**

University College Maastricht

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Social Sciences

Course Last Reviewed

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