



## **SYLLABUS**

**Peace Studies in the Balkans**

**Instructors: Emina Buzinkic, MA; Will Johnson, MA, JD**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**UO Credits: 5**

**Contact Hours\*: 45**

**Total Hours of Student Engagement (THSE) in all course activities\*: 135**

**Zagreb, Croatia**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Transitional Justice in the Balkans: Transitional justice is an emerging field of law and interdisciplinary academic study. The violent break-up of the former Yugoslavia, and the myriad domestic and international efforts to end and prevent conflict, present both the possibilities and challenges of transitional justice in the modern world. This course will introduce students to the study and application of transitional justice by exploring and analyzing the way Balkan societies have transitioned from dictatorship and war to democracy and (relative) peace. Case studies of transitional justice mechanisms in Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro will be supplemented with general discussions of the competing objectives present in post-conflict societies. This will provide the foundation for understanding the possibilities and challenges inherent to transitional justice work. The course will conclude with a role-playing exercise whereby students are encouraged to explore alternate outcomes to the Yugoslav conflict.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Instructional Goals. The course will:

- Outline the key objectives, successes and failures of the transitional justice movement.
- Introduce students to theoretical and legal concepts through the lens of specific post-conflict environments (Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro) in a case-study approach.
- Provide students with a culturally-specific context through which to understand the challenges and possibilities of transitional justice mechanisms.

Student Outcomes. Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Draw connections between the relevant historical and theoretical perspectives that inform transitional justice and post-conflict peace-building in the Balkans.
- Understand and evaluate the competing objectives present in post-conflict societies.
- Assess the relative success and failure of the key transitional justice mechanisms as practiced in the former Yugoslavia, including: truth and reconciliation commissions;

criminal prosecutions; historical memory projects; institution- and nation-building efforts; amnesty and lustration laws.

- Understand the legacy of conflict and transitional justice in 4 Balkan states: Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY**

This course is divided between classroom instruction (2/3) and excursions or experiential learning (1/3). During class, regular lectures will be supplemented with small group discussion, videos, and guest speakers. At least half of each class period will consist of lectures covering core course material, though the structure will be informal enough to allow for group and class discussions at any point. The remaining in-class time will be divided between guided class discussions, small-group discussions, simulated debates and videos. Excursions (e.g. to museums, courthouses, NGOs, and victim's advocacy groups) will provide an opportunity for students to begin understanding the practical application of theoretical, philosophical, and legal material covered in class. Excursions will also provide students an opportunity to engage directly with local perspectives on the topics studied in class.

### **METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)**

Attendance and Participation:	30%
Response Papers (2 at 15%):	30%
Final Essay:	30%*
Excursion Reflection:	10%

Note: Graduate students will have additional requirements.

\*Due one week after end of the course. Electronic submission required.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

#### Week 1: History and Theory of Peace Studies & Transitional Justice

Students will be introduced to the historical and theoretical foundations of Peace Studies and Transitional Justice. This will provide the foundation for all future coursework.

Day 1: Introduction to Course; What is Transitional Justice, and how do we build peace?

Day 2: Introduction to Competing Objectives in Post-Conflict Work; Truth vs. Justice, Vengeance vs. Forgiveness; Peace, Reconciliation, and Democracy.

Day 3: Overview of Transitional Justice Mechanisms

Day 4: Overview of Transitional Justice Mechanisms

#### Week 2: Civil War & Genocide: The Break-up of the Former Yugoslavia

Students will explore the need for and use of transitional justice mechanisms in the aftermath of the Yugoslav war.

Day 1: From war to war crimes: Srebrenica, Vukovar, and related massacres

Day 2: From war to war crimes: The Siege of Sarajevo

Day 3: Important Actors: Milosevic and his men

Day 4: Important Actors: Paramilitaries and civilian groups

#### Week 3: Domestic Responses to War Crimes

Students will explore the need for and use of transitional justice mechanisms in the aftermath of the Yugoslav War.

Day 1: Religion and Nationality: Redrawing the Political Map

Day 2: The Response to Violence: Hearing the Demands of the People

Day 3: Truth vs. Justice?

Day 4: Domestic Trials

#### Week 4: International Responses to War Crimes

Students will explore the need for and use of transitional justice mechanisms in Bosnia

Day 1: Holding leaders accountable: The rise of the ICTY

Day 2: The Milosevic Trial

Day 3: Gender-based violence as war crime

Day 4: Peacekeeping and International Diplomacy

#### Week 5: Moving Forward: The Possibilities and Challenges for 21st century Balkans

Day 1-2: The “other” actors: exploring the role of civic activism, religion, and NGOs in post-conflict Croatia

Day 3: Alternative Perspective- Croatia: From War Zone to Tourist Magnet

Day 4: The Legacy of Violence in the Balkans: Conclusions and Prospective for Peace

### **COURSE READINGS**

- A Packet of Supplemental Readings will be made available to students during orientation.

Required Materials will come from some or all the following sources:

- Minnow, Martha. *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1998. (Students are strongly encouraged to purchase and read this short book before departing from the U.S.)
- *Hijacked Justice: Dealing with the Past in the Balkans* by Jelena Subotic (Cornell Univ. Press, 2009)
- *Stay the Hand of Vengeance: The Politics of War Crimes Tribunals* by Gary Jonathan Bass (Princeton Univ. Press, 2000).
- *The Dark Side of Democracy: Explaining Ethnic Cleansing* by Michael Mann (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2004).

Additional readings may be assigned or recommended, TBA. This is a draft syllabus and is subject to change.