

Selected Problems-Social Analysis

Sociology and Anthropology 886

Section: G100

Term: 2000 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Heribert Adam

Discussion Topics: The course explores empirically and comparatively democratic alternatives in ethnic conflicts, especially the role of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions. Transitions to democracy after intercommunal hostilities are

undermined by bitter memories. Who wants to live next door to unrepentant assassins and forgive torturers? Yet merely turning the tables undermines peace and sets the stage for the next round of genocide.

The predicament has been addressed by two dozen Truth Commissions in different countries, from Latin America to South Africa. This unique model has traded justice for truth, granting amnesty to perpetrators in exchange

for full disclosure of their human rights violations. Not all victims agree.

We critically evaluate what lessons can be drawn from the much hailed South African negotiated revolution and attempted reconciliation for other ethnic

conflicts, from Bosnia to Israel, Sri Lanka and Northern Ireland. Under which conditions should the "international community" intervene, as highlighted "successfully" in Kosovo and disastrously in Rwanda? Should US/Western notions of human rights be universalized? As most judgements

draw lessons from the Nazi crimes, how a divided Germany has grappled with its unsavory past is most revealing. Auschwitz and the holocaust remains the universal benchmark on how to come to terms with the past.

Grading: Grading is based on regular, active participation in evening seminar discussions (40%), a written short review of one of the books from the below list (20%), and a research paper that can be related to the student's thesis or area expertise (40%). Auditors are welcome, provided they participate.

The seminar continues with new readings and a different focus from a similar course on "The Politics of Memory" offered in Fall 99. Interested students from the previous course with the same number designation should enrol under a S&A Reading Course number in order to receive credit.

Required Texts: A comprehensive reader with articles by various authors on collective memory, restorative justice and war crimes will be made available in class.

Heribert Adam, F. van Zyl Slabbert and Kogila Moodley, *Comrades in Business: Post-Liberation Politics*

Recommended Texts: For Review:

Carlos Nino, *Radical Evil on Trial*, Yale UP, 1996

Inga Clendinnen, *Reading the Holocaust*, 1999

Antje Krog, *Country of my Skull*, Doubleday, 1998

Neil Kritz, ed. *Transitional Justice*, 3 Vols, US Institute of Peace, 1995

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N. Chomsky, *The New Military Humanism: Lessons from Kosovo*, 1999

Michael Ignatieff, *Virtual War: Kosovo and Beyond*, 2000

Maurice Halbwachs, *Collective Memory*, 1950

Mark Osiel, *Mass Atrocity, Collective Memory and the Law*, 1997

J. Herf, *Divided Memory: The Nazi Past in the Two Germanies*, 1997

Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You...(Rwanda)*, 1998

P. Marchak, *God's Assassins. State Terrorism in Argentina*, 1999

Axel Honneth, *The Struggle for Recognition. The Moral Grammar*, 1995

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

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