

## **Selected Problems-Social Analysis**

Sociology and Anthropology 886

Section: G100

Term: 1999 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Heribert Adam

Discussion Topics: Evening

This seminar analyses how emerging democracies deal with the crimes of previous regimes. After war and political violence has ceased and a formal changeover of political power has taken place, a divided society still has to be reconciled. Peace research must aim at securing permanent democratisation rather than a temporary truce followed by reverse oppression and a new cycle of conflict.

Five basic ways have been identified in dealing with an unsavory past: (1) Amnesia, practised in the Spanish transition from the Franco dictatorship, in post-war Japan, Tito's Yugoslavia and contemporary Russia. (2) Nuremberg type trials to bring perpetrators of gross human rights violations to justice. (3) Lustration or the purge of collaborators from public office (Eastern Europe). (4) Compensation of victims or survivors through restitution or symbolic recognition (Canada) and (5) Truth Commissions, first practised in Latin America and later refined in South Africa where torturers receive amnesty upon full confessions.

The course will review in particular the German debate about its Nazi past, the lessons to be drawn from the South African experiment for other ethnic conflicts in Kosovo, Israel or Northern Ireland, and the controversy about the planned international war tribunal where the future Pinochets, Pol Pots or Milosovics of the world would face justice.

It is expected that each student comparatively specializes in one case/country or reviews one major author or issue in the ongoing global debate how human rights can be better secured.

Grading:

Required Texts: Aryeh Neier, *War Crimes: Brutality, Genocide, Terror and the Struggle for Justice*. (1998)

Michael Ignatieff, *The Warrior's Honour: Ethic War and the Modern Conscience*. (1998)

Martha Minow, *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness*

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU

### **Selected Problems-Social Analysis**

Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.