

Violence in War and Peace (SA)

Sociology and Anthropology 203

Section: D100

Term: 2005 Summer

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Discussion Topics: Much has been written on the erosion of communities and disruption of life worlds of people that result from war, structural violence and systemic practices of state terror. Relatively less attention has been given to how we remember and witness acts of violence. How people continue to live and remake their worlds in the midst of worst horrors has not been substantively documented.

In this course, we will focus on the dynamic relationship between violence, act of witnessing and reconstruction of lives in the context of shifting paradigms in anthropology and other disciplines. Central questions include: What is at stake for local communities following traumatic violence and other more insidious forms of social suffering? How are various social actors, ranging from global institutions to modern states, implicated in the production and actualization of collective violence? What is the political significance of the lived experience of suffering? How do we resolve the tension between \204official version\211 on violence and personal narratives? Can the human experience of suffering ever be fully documented? What makes genocide possible? What are \204peaceful\211 crimes?

To answer these questions we will look at the relationship between violence and structural inequalities/pathologies of power using a comparative lens. Following an overview of the anthropological perspectives on violence, we will examine a number of ethnographic and other case studies to show the different forms that violence assume in war and in peace. Particular case studies may include colonization of the Aboriginal peoples, the Holocaust, South African Apartheid, India\202s Partition, the genocide in Rwanda, 9/11 and its aftermath as well as everyday violence, including gendered brutality. Through ethnographic and comparative case study material, we will explore how diverse configurations \210 the spectacular and the quotidian, the local and the global, the public and the private \210 come together to define the realm of social power and knowledge.

This course has a seminar/lecture format. Students are required to participate and lead class/group discussions.

Students are required to have an SFU e-mail account.

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Grading: Article Reviews: 20%

In-Class Projects: 20%

Class Participation: 20%

Semester Paper: 40%

\204All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned.\211

\204The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).\211

Required Texts: Sherene Razack. *Dark Threats and White Knights: The Somali Affair, Peacekeeping and the New Imperialism*. University of Toronto.

Taisier M. Ali & Robert O. Matthews (ed.). *Durable Peace: Challenges for Peace-building in Africa*.

Recommended Texts: Mahmood Mamdani. *When Victims become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism and the Genocide in Rwanda*.

Mahmood Mamdani. *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War and the Roots of Terror*.

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: SA 150

Notes: \204The course instructor reserves the right to check for plagiarism using software provided by the SFU administration for this purpose.\211

Updated on April 21/05 - Now no Custom Courseware Pkg. to be purchased.

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