

PO390-30 Violence and Reconciliation in Eastern Africa

24/25

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Gabrielle Lynch

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module provides students with the theoretical and conceptual tools to analyse the root causes of, and the motivations for, violence in eastern Africa. Students will explore the different theoretical understandings of conflict and evaluate their applicability to a range of specific cases of violence. The module also provides students with an understanding of the various mechanisms of transitional justice and reconciliation efforts implemented in the region and they will critically assess the contribution of these efforts to current and future peace and stability. The specific cases covered include Rwanda, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Kenya.

Module aims

The module aims to offer students theoretical, empirical and comparative perspectives on the causes of conflict and the impact of various transitional justice and reconciliation efforts in eastern Africa.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be

covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1:

1. Understanding Ethnicity and Violence
2. Understanding Conflict: Grand narratives and local struggles
3. Northern Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army
4. Rwanda: Genocide and its causes
5. Eastern Congo: From Genocide to continental war?
6. Reading week
7. Sudan: Civil war, oil and secession
8. Kenya I: Multi-party elections and political violence 1992-1997
9. Kenya II: Multi-party elections and political violence 2007-2023
10. Violence in comparative perspective

Term 2:

11. Transitional Justice and Reconciliation: Tools and Theories
12. Rwanda I: The international criminal tribunal
13. Rwanda II: Justice 'on the grass' and the case of gacaca
14. Rwanda III: The politics of remembering and forgetting
15. The ICC in Africa
16. Reading week
17. Traditional Justice Mechanisms: Ritual and mato oput in Northern Uganda
18. Truth commissions in comparative perspective
19. Constitutional Reform
20. From Transitional to Transformative Justice?

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand and apply different theories of mass violence (including social, cultural, materialist and instrumental approaches) to different empirical case studies
- Consider and explain motivations of violence, the relevance of political systems and political instrumentalism, and the significance of international dimensions (including intervention) in different contexts
- Critically assess different reconciliation efforts and analyse their contribution to current and future peace and stability
- Compare the causes of violence and the strengths and weaknesses of different reconciliation efforts in different contexts
- Use a range of sources, including secondary literature, newspaper articles, and government and non-government reports

Indicative reading list

Term 1:

1. Understanding Ethnicity and Violence
Lynch, G. (2018) Ethnicity in Africa. In Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of African History.

Oxford: Oxford University Press

Mamdani, M. (1996) *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of late Colonialism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (Chapters 2 & 3)

Galtung, J. (1969) Peace, and Peace Research. *Journal of Peace Research* 6 (3): 167-191

2. Understanding Conflict: Grand narratives and local struggles

Chua, A. (2004) *World on Fire: How exporting free market democracy breeds ethnic hatred and global instability*. London: Arrow Books

Collier, P. & A. Hoeffler (2004) Greed and Grievance in Civil War. *Oxford Economic Papers* 56: 563-595

Elbadawi, E. & N. Sambanis (2000) Why Are There So Many Civil Wars in Africa?

Understanding and Preventing Violent Conflict. Journal of African Economies 9(3): 244-269

Mamdani, M. (2002) African States, Citizenship and War: A case-study. *International Affairs* 78 (3): 493–506

3. Northern Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army

Jackson, P. (2002) The march of the Lord's Resistance Army: Greed or grievance in northern Uganda? *Small wars and Insurgencies* 13 (3): 29-52

Titeca, K., & Costeur, T. (2015). An LRA for everyone: How different actors frame the Lord's Resistance Army. *African Affairs*, 114(454), 92-114.

4. Rwanda: Genocide and its causes

Hintjens, H. (1999) Explaining the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda. *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 37 (2): 241-286

Mamdani, M. (2001) *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism and the Genocide in Rwanda*. Oxford: James Currey

5. Eastern Congo: From Genocide to continental war?

Autesserre, S. (2008) The Trouble with Congo. *Foreign Affairs*, 87(3): 94 - 110

Kisangani, E. F. (2012) *Civil Wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 1960-2010*. Lynne Rienner Publishers

6. Reading week

7. Sudan: Civil war, oil and secession

Deng, L. B. (2010) Social capital and civil war: The Dinka communities in Sudan's civil war. *African Affairs* 109 (435): 231-250

Medani, K. M. (2011) Strife and secession in Sudan. *Journal of Democracy* 22 (3): 135-149.

Suliman, M. (1993) Civil war in the Sudan: From ethnic to ecological conflict. *Ecologist* 23 (3): 104-109

8. Kenya I: Multi-party elections and political violence 1992-1997

Ajulu, R. (2002) Politicised Ethnicity, Competitive Politics and Conflict in Kenya: A Historical Perspective. *African Studies* 61 (2): 251-268.

Kagwanja, P. (2001) Politics of Marionettes: Extra-legal Violence and the 1997 Elections in Kenya. In M. Rutten, A. Mazrui & F. Grignon (eds) *Out for the Count: The 1997 Elections & Prospects for Democracy in Kenya*. Kampala: 72-100.

9. Kenya II: Multi-party elections and political violence 2007-2023

Cheeseman, Nic, Lynch, Gabrielle, & Justin Willis (2014) Democracy and its discontents: The Kenyan elections of 2013. *Journal of Eastern African studies*

Chege, M. (2008) Kenya: back from the brink?. *Journal of Democracy* 19 (4): 125-139

Mutahi, P., & Ruteere, M. (2019). Violence, security and the policing of Kenya's 2017 elections. *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 13(2), 253-271.

Ruteere, Mutuma (2011) More than political tools: The police and post-election violence in Kenya. *African Security Review* 20 (4): 11-20

10. Violence in comparative perspective

Return to readings from previous weeks (particularly week 2) and assess the benefits and weaknesses of applying particular theoretical approaches to different conflicts.

Term 2:

11. Transitional Justice and Reconciliation: Tools and Theories

Bosire, L. K. (2006) Overpromised, Underdelivered: Transitional Justice in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Sur - International Journal on Human Rights* 5: 71-107

Daly, E. (2002) Transformative Justice: Charting a path to reconciliation. *International Legal Perspectives* 12

12. Rwanda I: The international criminal tribunal

Nsanzuwera, F. (2005) The ICTR contribution to national reconciliation. *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 3 (4): 944-949.

Peskin, Victor (2005) Beyond Victor's Justice? The challenge of prosecuting the winners at the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. *Journal of Human Rights* 4 (2): 213-231

13. Rwanda II: Justice 'on the grass' and the case of gacaca

Clark, P. (2010) *The Gacaca Courts and Post-Genocide Justice and Reconciliation in Rwanda: Justice without Lawyers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Daly, E. (2002) Between Punitive Justice and Reconstructive Justice: the Gacaca Courts in Rwanda. *New York University Journal of International Law and Politics* 34: 355-396

14. Rwanda III: The politics of remembering and forgetting

Breed, A. (2008) Performing the nation: Theatre in post-genocide Rwanda. *The Drama Review* 52 (1): 22-50

Mgbako, C. (2005) Ingando solidarity camps: Reconciliation and political indoctrination in post-genocide Rwanda. *Harvard Human Rights Journal* 201

15. The ICC in Africa

Branch, A. (2007) Uganda's civil war and the politics of ICC intervention. *Ethics and International Affairs* 21 (2): 179-198

Lugano, G. (2017) Counter-shaming the International Criminal Court's intervention as neocolonial: Lessons from Kenya. *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 11 (1): 9-29

16. Reading week

17. Traditional Justice Mechanisms: Ritual and mato oput in Northern Uganda

Allen, T. (2008) Ritual (ab)use? Problems with traditional justice in Northern Uganda. In Waddell, N. & P. Clark (eds) *Courting Conflict? Justice, Peace and the ICC in Africa*. London: Royal African Society

Anyeko, K. et al (2011) 'The Cooling of Hearts': Community Truth-Telling in Northern Uganda. *Human Rights Review* 13 (1): 107-124

18. Truth commissions in comparative perspective

Mamdani, M. (2002) Amnesty or Impunity? A preliminary critique of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa. *Diacritics* 32 (3-4): 33-59

Stanley, E. (2001) Evaluating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 39 (3): 525-546

19. Power-sharing

Cheeseman, N. & B. Tendi (2010) Power-sharing in comparative perspective: The dynamics

of 'unity government' in Kenya and Zimbabwe. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 48 (2): 203-229

Mehler, A. (2009) Peace and Power Sharing in Africa: A Not So Obvious Relationship. *African Affairs* 108: 453–73

20. From Transitional to Transformative Justice?

Gready, P. (2005) Reconceptualising transitional justice: Embedded and distanced justice. *Conflict Security and Development* 5 (1): 3-21

Lambourne, W. (2009) Transitional Justice and Peace-Building after Mass Violence. *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 3 (1): 28-48

Subject specific skills

TBC

Transferable skills

The module provides students with opportunities to acquire or develop the following key skills:

Synthesis of different materials

Critical analysis

Oral presentation

Writing

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Private study	219 hours (73%)
Assessment	45 hours (15%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Reading for weekly seminars; seminar presentation preparation; assessment preparation.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
2500 word essay	40%	15 hours
2500 word essay. Student to negotiate a title that relates to term 1 content.		
3000 word essay.	50%	20 hours
3000 word essay. Student to negotiate a title that relates to term 2 content.		
Opinion piece .	10%	10 hours
A 700 word opinion piece on term 1 and/or term 2 content for a non-specialist/general audience.		

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback and advice and feedback hours.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M101 Undergraduate Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)

- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
 - Year 3 of M16A Politics and International Studies
 - Year 3 of M16A Politics and International Studies
 - Year 3 of M16A Politics and International Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M16B Undergraduate Politics and International Studies (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- Year 4 of UPOA-ML14 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
- Year 4 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16D Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German (3 year degree)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16H Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies (3 year degree)

This module is Option list C for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list D for:

- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics