

PO390-30 Violence and Reconciliation in Eastern Africa

26/27

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Samuel Anim

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 Violence and Peace
2. Explaining Violent 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:

1. Understanding Peace and Reconciliation
2. Justice After Conflict and Transitional Justice
3. Rwanda I: The International Criminal Tribunal
4. Rwanda II: Justice 'on the Grass' and the Case of Gacaca
5. Rwanda III: The Politics of Remembering and Forgetting
6. Reading week
7. The ICC in Africa
8. Traditional Justice Mechanisms: Ritual and Mato Oput in Northern Uganda
9. Truth Commissions in Comparative Perspective
10. Reparations

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

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

Understand and apply different theories of mass violence (including social, cultural, materialist, and instrumental approaches) to different empirical case studies

Consider and explain the 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

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 A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
2500 word essay	40%	15 hours	Yes (extension)
2500 word essay. Student to negotiate a title that relates to term 1 content.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
3000 word essay.	50%	20 hours	Yes (extension)
3000 word essay. Student to negotiate a title that relates to term 2 content.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Opinion piece	10%	10 hours	Yes (extension)
A 700 word opinion piece on term 1 and/or term 2 content for a non-specialist/general audience.			
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback and advice and feedback hours.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- 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 3 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate 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)
- 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 V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate 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 B for:

- Year 4 of UHIA-VM15 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Intercalated Year)

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 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 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:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate 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