

**INR 4932.001**

Spring 2016, 3 credits

Meeting Time: W, 2:00–4:50pm

Meeting Place: GS115

Course website: <https://bb.fau.edu/>**Professor: Angela D. Nichols**

Office: SO384D

Office Hours: W 1:00–2:00pm

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**Post-Conflict Peace and Justice****Course Description and Objectives**

Peace and justice efforts increasingly follow periods of repression, mass abuse, and conflict. The mechanisms chosen to accomplish these goals range from peacekeeping forces to truth and reconciliation commissions. This class focuses on understanding those efforts, both state and non-state. With that in mind, this course is designed to introduce you to the existing range of approaches that states adopt in an attempt to prolong peace, reconcile society, and serve justice to those responsible.

Upon successfully completing this course, you will be familiar with many of the factors that seem to attenuate or aggravate the issues of peace and justice in transitioning states. This includes a basic understanding of when and why states adopt certain mechanisms and not others, as well as the effectiveness of those mechanisms once in place. You will also be able to apply these factors to real-world scenarios (e.g., studying historical cases of human rights abuse/conflict or assessing the prospects for future abuse/conflict around the world). I also hope that you will develop skills that will serve you regardless of what you do after leaving FAU. In particular, we will focus on thinking analytically and critically, and on presenting and supporting rigorous, well-developed arguments.

**Course Materials**

There are no books for this class.

Daily reading assignments typically come from academic and policy journals, and are available from two sources:

- the BlackBoard (BB) site for this course (Course Content → Readings)
- directly from an online provider (typically JSTOR)

JSTOR is likely your best option to access the assigned material. JSTOR is an academic journal service that FAU provides for us. Access is free from any FAU computer (e.g., in computer labs or dorms, or via FAU wireless networks); you can search for individual articles by author or title, or browse by journal name and issue at [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org). Additionally, you can access the FAU electronic journal library via <http://www.fau.edu/library/ecollect/ejournals.php>.

**Student Assignments & Responsibilities**

Exams: Fifty percent of your grade will be determined by two exams. Exams will be short answer and essay. See the schedule for the exam dates. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

Make-up Exams: If you cannot attend one of the exams, you need to notify me as soon as possible by email and in person. Make-up exams will only be given to students who have been unable to sit for the examination as a consequence of illness requiring medical care, required university activities, or a personal emergency of a serious nature. To be excused without penalty, documentation and/or prior permission is required. Additionally, an alternative exam may be provided.

Writing Assignment: For this assignment, you will choose to read a book or watch a documentary—from a list that I provide—and respond in the form of a short reaction paper. More information regarding the expectations of this assignment will be distributed by the third week of class. This writing assignment is worth 20% of your final grade.

Policy Project: For this assignment, you will propose a policy solution to an existing problem associated with post-conflict peace and justice that you identify. There will be three iterations of due dates related to this project. First, you will identify the problem. Next, you will describe and analyze existing policy solutions. Finally, you will propose a new or reformed policy to address the problem you have identified. These problems may be at any level of analysis, but are subject to my approval. Further details will be provided at a later date. This project is worth 20% of your final grade.

Attendance & Participation: Human rights consist of more than just a series of historical facts and concepts to be memorized; they encompass the study of violent human interactions, behaviors of nation-states and individuals, and broad social phenomena. These can be most clearly understood through discussion and the evaluation of alternative perspectives. In other words, participation increases active learning. While this course will have a substantial lecture component, there will also be opportunities for participation in classroom exercises and discussions. Thus, attending class and participating regularly are key to achieving the course objectives discussed above.

To this end, attendance and participation is worth 10% of your final grade. I will take attendance daily throughout the semester. I will also take note of how regularly you participate in class, both in productive and distractive ways. To maximize this part of your grade, it is highly recommended that you come to class prepared (e.g., having done the assigned readings) and willing to participate. Merely showing up and occupying a seat will not constitute full participation. Other ways to lose participation points include but are not limited to: being a disruption to others (e.g., side conversations with friends, reading for other classes), repeatedly failing to answer a question if called upon, and not participating in classroom discussions and exercises in a productive manner. Further, you are entitled to 3 absences (for any reason) with no direct effect on your grade. You do not need to tell me why you miss class, but if you exceed 3 unexcused absences, I will not be interested in the reasons and your final grade will decline one letter grade with each subsequent absence. Excused absences are rarely given, but can be awarded for religious accommodations and university approved events.

## **Grading & Evaluation**

Grades are assigned in accordance with the following scale:

94 - 100% = A	86 - 89% = B+	76 - 79% = C+	66 - 69% = D+	below 60% = F
90 - 93 % = A-	83 - 85% = B	73 - 75% = C	63 - 65% = D	
	80 - 82% = B-	70 - 72% = C-	60 - 62% = D-	

## Other Policies

- Lecture notes and slides will not be posted online or otherwise handed out to students under any circumstances.
- Materials handed out in class by the instructor (e.g., review sheets, simulation materials, etc.) will under no circumstances be distributed electronically or outside of class.
- Allow a reasonable amount of time for a response when you send me an email. Do not email me an hour before an exam and expect me to respond or receive the email before class. I will not answer questions that can be answered by reading the syllabus or accessing blackboard via email. I encourage students to utilize office hours to answer their questions whenever possible.
- Grades will not be released to any student via email, phone, or other electronic means. If you wish to discuss your grades, report to the appropriate office hours or make an appointment, and come prepared with your university identification.
- You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. This includes clarity of thought, knowledge of the material, composition, spelling, and grammar.

## Academic Honor Code

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Incidents of plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a failing grade for the class and further penalties per the University's judicial process. Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg\\_4.001\\_5-26-10\\_FINAL.pdf](http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg_4.001_5-26-10_FINAL.pdf)

## Accommodations

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 203 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8585) and follow all SAS procedures.

## Classroom Conduct

Classroom courtesy is an essential component of creating an effective learning environment. All students have the right to learn without unnecessary distractions. These distractions include: laptops, cell phones, and the like, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructor), reading

newspapers, falling asleep, etc. If you use a laptop to take notes during class, turn off the sound and restrain yourself from unnecessary surfing. I reserve the right to suspend the use of laptops if this policy is abused. If you need a phone for *emergency purposes*, leave it on vibrate. Entering and leaving are also significant sources of distraction. It is your responsibility to be on time and to stay for the entire class. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the professor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade.

Class discussions of political issues can often stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. I ask all of you to respect the opinions of your fellow students, even if you do not agree with them. In simple terms, that means not interrupting other students while they are speaking and not verbally attacking them for their beliefs. While I believe that it is essential to connect theory to current events, I will cut short debates of current events that do not enhance the understanding of course concepts. I expect you to offer substantive comments and questions when appropriate in class. I also expect you not to dominate a discussion, but to allow free discussion and exchange of ideas.

### **Course Content & Schedule**

See BB for an approximate calendar of class discussions. Every attempt will be made to adhere to this schedule. However, departures from the schedule may occasionally occur. Exam and activity dates should be considered firm, and you should arrange your personal schedule to be present at the appointed dates and times.