



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 402.5 L01 – Winter 2019
Advanced Topics in Politics: Transitional Justice**

INSTRUCTOR: Andrew R. Basso
EMAIL: abasso@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE: SS 749
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 16:00-17:00 and by appointment
COURSE HOURS: M W F 15:00-15:50
COURSE LOCATION: SA 147
PREREQUISITES: Three units in political science at the senior level

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

The last two centuries in history have included some of the most destructive campaigns of mass killing and systemic human rights violations ever recorded. To heal from these crimes, transitional justice mechanisms have been employed to achieve dynamic conceptions of justice. This course will introduce students to these transitional justice approaches and mechanisms through theories of transitional justice, empirical cases, and examinations of critical relevant issue areas. The main purposes of this course are to offer students an introduction to transitional justice as a field of study and to aid in understanding complexities of transitioning from rights violating societies into rights respecting ones; in short, understanding peace creation.

Retributive, restorative, and restitutive justice approaches will be examined in comparative perspectives. Retributive justice is concerned with holding individual perpetrators accountable legally. Restorative justice focusses on the widespread reporting of truth. Restitutive justice centres on the idea that victims of human rights violations deserve compensation (discursive and material). These approaches are implemented through a variety of mechanisms: legal proceedings (placing perpetrators on trial), truth commissions (hearings to construct holistic narratives), political apologies (for previous rights violations), and reparations payments (compensation for rights violations). We will discuss implementation strategies and types of justice throughout the course.

At the end of the course, students will an introductory grounding into core aspects of the study of transitional justice and will be able to connect these debates to historical and contemporary rights violations globally. Students will learn about critical laws, norms, principles, and approaches to justice internationally and will learn the failures, successes, and gaps in reconciliation practices after flagrant human rights violations. Engaging in critical transitional justice debates will aid in progressing student critical thinking. The research paper will aid in further refining student research, writing, and evaluation skills.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Olivera Simić (ed.), *An Introduction to Transitional Justice* (New York: Routledge, 2016).

COURSE COMPONENTS, WEIGHTS, AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Mid-Term	25%	25 February 2019
Research Paper	35%	29 March 2019
Final Examination	40%	TBD (15-27 April 2019)
Total	100%	

COURSE MEETING SCHEDULE & TOPICS*

* The schedule is tentative and may change if the need arises.

Part I: Introducing Transitional Justice

Week One: What Is Transitional Justice, vol.1?

- 11 January 2019
- Readings
 - o Chapter 1
 - o Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Week Two: What Is Transitional Justice, vol.2?

- 14 January 2019
- Readings
 - o Chapters 2 and 7

Week Three: Human Rights and Legacies of Atrocities and Rights Violations

- 21 January 2019
- Readings
 - o Chapters 4 and 11

Part II: Retributive Justice

Week Four: The Nuremberg Trials

- 28 January 2019
- Readings
 - o Chapter 3

Week Five: The International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and Gacaca Courts

- 4 February 2019
- Readings
 - o Chapter 8

Part III: Restorative Justice

Week Six: The National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation (Chile)

- 11 February 2019
- Readings

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- Chapter 5

Week Seven: Reading Break, No Classes

- 18 February 2019
- Readings
 - No Readings

Week Eight: The Commission on Truth and Reconciliation (South Africa)

- 25 February 2019
- **Mid-Term**
- Readings
 - Chapter 6

Part IV: Restitutive Justice

Week Nine: Political Apologies

- 4 March 2019
- Readings
 - No Readings

Week Ten: Reparations

- 11 March 2019
- Readings
 - Chapter 9

Part V: Current Transitional Justice

Week Eleven: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

- 18 March 2019
- Readings
 - Chapter 10

Week Twelve: The International Criminal Court

- 25 March 2019
- **Research Paper Due**
- Readings
 - Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Part VI: Problems in Transition and the Future of Justice

Week Thirteen: Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and Haiti

- 1 April 2019
- Readings
 - Chapter 13

Week Fourteen: Transitional Justice in the 21st Century

- 8 April 2019
- Readings
 - Chapter 14

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (25%)

The mid-term will be written in the regular course classroom (SA 147) and will begin at the start of class on **Monday, February 25, 2019**. Students will write a mid-term examination based on all course content in **lectures and assigned readings to the time of writing**. The mid-term will include ten multiple choice questions and a choice of three short answer questions. No study aids or notes will be permitted during the mid-term examination. Please refer to the grading rubric below for questions on grade distribution. Further instructions on the mid-term will be provided during course lectures.

RESEARCH PAPER (35%)

Students will write a research paper on a question students formulate. The research paper **must at minimum reach 3,800 words in length (excluding bibliography and citations)**. The quality of writing, engagement with academic sources, originality of ideas, and quality of argumentation will all be significant determinants of grades earned. The research paper is due on **Friday, March 29, 2019 at 11:59pm** and will be submitted via D2L. More information about this assignment will be provided during course lectures and through the course D2L website.

Papers must have proper bibliographic entries and citations. Papers **must at minimum cite 10 academic sources** (peer-reviewed books and journal articles). Additional sources **beyond** these 10 academic sources are encouraged and may include, but are not limited to: periodical publications, government reports, intergovernmental and non-governmental publications, newspaper articles, and non-peer reviewed websites. A Wiki citation of any sort will not be accepted and papers that do cite Wiki will be penalized. The goal of a literature review is to engage with existing literatures and formulate original arguments.

Please refer to the grade scale section provided in the syllabus for questions on grade distribution. Please refer to the late penalties section provided in the syllabus for questions on grade deductions. Please refer to the quality of writing section for questions on the importance of good writing. Further information about the nature and specifics of the literature review will be provided during course meetings.

FINAL EXAMINATION (40%)

The date of the final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar and it will be written on campus between 15 and 27 April 2019. Students will write a 3 hour final examination on **all course content**. The final exam will include 10 multiple choice, a choice of 3 short answer questions, and choice of one essay. No study aids or notes will be permitted during examination hours. Please refer to the grade scale section provided in the syllabus for questions on grade distribution. Further instructions on the final examination will be provided during course lectures.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

CITATION STYLE GUIDE

Accepted citation styles include Chicago, APA, Harvard, and MLA. Failure to comply with these minimum standards will result in penalized literature reviews. Please refer to the citation links below for quick access to four different style guides.

Quick and Easy Citation Style Links:

- Chicago
 - o http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
- APA
 - o <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- Harvard
 - o https://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/downloads/citation/Harvard_Complete.pdf
- MLA
 - o <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

GRADE SCALE

The following grade scale will apply universally to all course components. The instructor is responsible for marking all course materials.

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

LATE PENALTIES

Late submission of literature reviews will result in a 5% loss of assignment grade per day (including Saturdays and Sundays). Literature reviews submitted 7 days after the due date will not be accepted unless documented emergencies arise or extensions are granted.

CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email their instructor and attend office hours. Meetings outside of normal office hours are possible depending on the instructor's schedule. Do not miss appointments without reasonable prior notice.

PROPER USE OF EMAIL

Students are expected to follow proper email etiquette when emailing their instructor or fellow students. This includes writing an appropriate subject line, addressing the email properly, and ensuring that spelling and grammar are correct. The instructor will answer proper emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Seminars may not be recorded using any audio or video devices unless consent by the instructor is explicitly given. Photography is prohibited unless instructor consent is given. All materials presented are the intellectual property of the instructor and may not be reproduced or utilized without expressed consent of the instructor. Special accommodations will absolutely be made with proper documentation from the Student Accessibility Services.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot attend office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours. Meetings outside of office hours are subject to the instructor's availability. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments unless reasonable prior notification of unavailability is given.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and turn off all cellphones/smartphones and non-essential electronic devices when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Internet is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated. Disruptive students will be asked to leave.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioner for Oaths, visit ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>

Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

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Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)

Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>