

Sociology 259
The Sociology of International Justice
Spring 2006
Professor Thomas Cushman
PNE 334
Office hours: Monday, 9-11 Thursday, 1:30-3:30

This course is an overview of some key historical, philosophical, and sociological dimensions of international justice. We examine the idea of justice in human societies in different times and places, the origins of international justice in the Enlightenment, and contemporary utopian discourses on justice in the twentieth century. We then focus on the structure of international justice in the twentieth century, with particular emphasis on war crimes trials, truth and reconciliation commissions, and the debate about the International Criminal Court and the idea of “universal jurisdiction.”

Required Books and Readings

Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*. Hackett Publishing
John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*. Harvard University Press
Lawrence Douglas, *The Memory of Judgment: Making Law and History in Trials of the Holocaust*, Yale
Lyn Graybill, *Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa*, Lynne Rienner
Jeffrie Murphy, *Getting Even: Forgiveness and Its Limits*, Oxford
Council on Foreign Relations, *Toward an International Criminal Court*, Council on Foreign Relations Press

There are also a number of articles on electronic reserve which you can access throughout the semester. Some reserve reading can be found on the Internet and I have indicated where this is the case.

Class Policies:

Attendance and class participation is required. Each week, there will be a short assignment based on the readings which will be collected and used as the basis for class discussions. These will count in the final grade. In addition, each student will write three 5-7 page papers and a take home final exam.

Class Schedule and Topics

January 30 –February 6

What is Justice?

Read:

Thucydides, “Melian dialogue,” <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm>

Plato – In *The Republic*, Book I and Book II up to the line “I had always admired the genius of Glaucon and Adeimantus,” <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html>
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Chapter 5
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.5.v.html>
Ralf Dahrendorf, “In Praise of Thrasymachus” (e-reserve)

February 9 – February 23
The Birth of the Idea of International Justice

Read:
Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace* - in entirety, with the following exceptions: in the chapter, “Theory and Practice”, read only section III and skip the chapter, “The End of All Things”

(Note: There is no class on February 20, President’s Day. We will have class on Thursday and a guest lecturer on February 23)

February 27 – March 9
Modern Liberal Internationalism: John Rawls’ Utopian Project

Read: John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*, in entirety
John Kekes, “Dangerous Egalitarian Dreams,” at:
http://www.city-journal.org/html/11_4_urbanities-dangerous.html
Ralf Dahrendorf, “On the Origins of Inequality Among Men” (e-reserve)
J.L. Talmon, *Utopianism and Politics* (e-reserve)

Paper 1 due: March 13 in class

Modes of International Justice

March 13 – April 3 (Spring Break is March 17-26)
War Crimes Trials

Read Laurence Douglas, *The Memory of Judgment* (specific chapters to be assigned)

Film: We will be watching *The Specialist: Portrait of a Modern Criminal*, which is a documentary about the Eichmann trial. Details about the showing will be provided. Ideally, we will watch the film together in class, which may entail going over the allotted time limit, through the lunch period, so plan accordingly.

Second Paper due: April 13

April 6 –April 13

Case Studies of Justice: Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa

Read:

Lyn Graybill, *Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa: Miracle or Model*, in entirety

April 18 –April 20 (note we are not having class on the 17th because of Patriot's Day, but Tuesday is a Monday schedule and so we will be meeting then)

April 24- April 27

Forgiveness and Its Discontents

Read, Jeffrie Murphy, *Getting Even: The Limits of Forgiveness*, in entirety
Jacque Derrida, "On Forgiveness (reserve)

May 1-8

The Debate over the International Criminal Court

Read: *Toward an International Criminal Court*, in entirety

On May 4, we will have an in-class "debate about the ICC, the class will be divided up into sections and each section will prepare to argue the various positions on the Court. This will be a random assignment, so you may be asked to argue a position that you don't agree with.

Paper 3 due Wednesday, May 10 (note: our last day of classes is May 8, but I am giving you the two extra days to turn in the paper).