

Study programme(s): Regional Master Program in Peace Studies
Study level: Graduate
Course title: Paths to Reconciliation
Professor (Surname, middle initial, name): Prof. Nikolic-Ristanovic Z. Vesna
Compulsory/Elective: Elective
Number of ECTS: 6
<p>Aim of the course</p> <p>This course will deal with following questions: why it is important to establish truth after the war, whether there are one or more truths, what are possible methods of establishing what happened, what are the reasons of the denial which represent the obstacle to the reconciliation, how it is possible to overcome denial and enhance reconciliation. The course will explore the significance that establishing the truth, i.e. recognition that something happened, has for victims, as well as the ways of recording (collecting and making visible) data on war crimes, and their influence on reconciliation. This will be particularly examined on the example of the families of missing and killed persons, and victims of war rapes. Different dimensions of reconciliation process as well as reconciliation instruments will be explored. The focus will also be on two main approaches in dealing with war and war crimes – one based on restorative and the other on retributive justice. The emphasis will be on comparative prospective. Advantages and shortcomings of truth and reconciliation commissions will be particularly analysed.</p> <p>The aims of the course are to make students familiar with one important aspect of peacebuilding – with facing the truth, and also with different aspects of the notion of the truth and the ways of establishing of constructive communication between different interpretations of the same events, that may be healing for the post-war societies. Thus, they may also become the basis for reconciliation. Moreover, the course aims to show different dimensions of reconciliation process – from interpersonal to collective – as possible roads for recovery.</p>
<p>Outcome of the course</p> <p>Students will get understanding of reconciliation process and of the roads that lead toward it, of the relationship between the truth, justice, reconciliation and lasting peace, and they will become familiar with experiences of facing the truth and with reconciliation processes in different societies and cultures, as well as with the role of truth and reconciliation commissions, courts, civil society and state initiatives in the process of reconciliation.</p>
<p>Content of the course</p> <p>1. Introduction into the discussion about the war, its consequences and facing the truth; 2. Different interpretation of truth: one or more truths; 3. Denial and recognition; 4. Psychological aspects of reconciliation: reconciling with ourselves and others; 5. Digging the graves, uncovering the wounds, recognition of the past; 6. Restorative and retributive justice in the context of war and war crimes; 7. Truth and Reconciliation Commission; 8. Restorative justice, punishment and victims; 9. Initiatives of civil society and truth and reconciliation: Northern Ireland and South Africa; 10. Serbia on the road of truth and reconciliation; 11. Activities of the state and civil society in Serbia and other parts of the former Yugoslavia; 12. Truth and reconciliation commission in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and other similar initiatives in Serbia and other parts of the former Yugoslavia; 13. From remembering the past to positive future and the idea of the Third way in Serbia; 14. Let anger grow into action, or what each of us can do? (workshop)</p>
<p>Literature</p> <p>a) compulsory</p> <p>K. Jaspers (1999) <i>Pitanje krivice</i>, Beograd: Samizdat B92, (9-17); Bloomfield, D., Barnes, T. and Huyse, L. (Eds.) (2003) <i>Reconciliation after Violent Conflict: a Handbook</i>. Stockholm: International IDEA; Cohen, S. (2003) <i>States of denial</i>, Cambridge: Polity Press; Cristie, N. (2005) <i>Restorativna i retributivna pravda u kontekstu rata i ratnih zločina</i>, Temida, 4. (27-32); Hamber, B. (2005) <i>Razrešavanje situacije u vezi sa konfliktom u Severnoj Irskoj i u vezi sa njim: Pouke koje slede iz projekta Oporavak kroz sećanje</i>, Temida, 4 (23-31); Van der Merve, H. (2005) „Južna Afrika. Kreiranje agende tranzicione pravde usmerene ka budućnosti“, Temida 2 (33-37); Aertsen, I., Arsovska, J., Rohne, H-C., Valiñas, M. and Vanspauwen, K. (ur) (2008) <i>Restoring Justice after Large-scale Violent Conflicts: Kosovo, DR Congo and the Israeli-Palestinian Case</i>, Devon, Willan; Fischer, M., Petrović-Ziemer, Lj. (eds.) (2013). <i>Dealing with the Past in the Western Balkans. Initiatives for Peacebuilding and Transitional Justice in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia</i>. Berghof Report No. 18. Berlin: Berghof Foundation; Nikolić-Ristanović, V., Čopić, S. (2013) <i>Dealing with interethnic conflicts in Serbia and the place of restorative justice and victims</i>. Deliverable 6.1: Research report on dealing with conflicts by NGOs and the state. Nikolić-Ristanović, V. (2012) <i>Evidentiranje podataka o ratnim zločinima i masovnim kršenjima ljudskih prava: iskustva iz sveta i situacija u Srbiji</i> u V. Nikolić-Ristanović (ed) <i>Evidentiranje kriminaliteta: iskustva iz sveta i Srbije</i>, Beograd: Prometej, (39-66).</p> <p>b) additional</p> <p>S. Savić (2002) "Ron Haviv: krv i med na fotografijama i u rečima", u M. Gajicki (ur.) <i>VIVISEKT</i>, Novi Sad: Vojvodanka (25-46); J Srna (2005) "Towards reconciling with ourselves and others", <i>Psihologija</i>, vol 38 (2) (117-132); E. Stover, R. Shigekane (2002) "The missing in the aftermath of war: When do the needs of victims families and international war crimes tribunals clash?" <i>IRRC</i> 84 (845-866); Nikolić-Ristanovic, V. (2000) <i>Women, Violence and War</i> (ed.), CEU press, Budapest; Hayner, P. (2001) <i>Unspeakable Truths: Transitional Justice and the Challenge of Truth Commissions</i>, New York: Routledge; Boraine, A. (2001) <i>A country unmasked</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press; V. Nikolić-Ristanović, N. Hanak (2004) <i>Od sećanja na prošlost ka pozitivnoj budućnosti - ideje i mišljenja građana</i>, Beograd: VDS i Prometej (28-56); Nikolić-Ristanović, V., Srna, J. (2008). <i>Mogući put ka pomirenju u Srbiji: Zajednička akcija za istinu i pomirenje</i>. Beograd:</p>

Viktimološko društvo Srbije i Prometej; Stephenson, M., Zanotti, L. (2011). Implementing the Liberal Peace in Post-conflict Scenarios: The Case of Women in Black-Serbia. <i>Global Policy</i> 1: 46-57; Nikolić-Ristanović, V., Srna, J. (2010) Pomirenje sa sobom i druguma:od pristupa ka modelu, <i>Temida</i> , 1, str. 43-58; Nikolić-Ristanović, V. (2012) Iskustva Nemačke u dokumentovanju i predstavljanju javnosti podataka o zločinima iz prošlosti, <i>Temida</i> , 3, (5-22)				
Number of classes of active teaching: 28				Other
Lectures: 2	Tutorials: 1	Other modes of teaching:	Research work: 1	
Teaching methods				
Personal views, presentation of existing initiatives and working on developing own initiatives and projects: what students can do as their contribution to truth and reconciliation.				
Assessment of knowledge (maximum no. of points 100)				
Pre-examination commitments	points	Final examination		points
activity	30	written test		
practical teaching	10	oral examination		50
colloquium(a)	10		
seminar(s)				