

War Crimes Trials (Summer Session A, 2022)

CRIM 490.A01

Online synchronous and asynchronous hybrid

Course meeting times: 10:30 am to 12:35 pm

Meeting Days: May 23, May 25, June 1, June 6, June 8, June 13, June 15, and June 22

About the instructor

I am term assistant professor of criminology, law and society at George Mason University (instructional associate professor as of August 2022). My research is primarily on the death penalty, human rights, and comparative law. I have a B.A. in international affairs (George Washington), M.Sc. in African politics (London), a Juris Doctor (Boston), and a Ph.D. in law (Middlesex). I am licensed to practice law in New York and Washington, DC.

Email: anovak2@gmu.edu

Grading scale

I will not use the grades "D+" or "D-."

98-100 A+ / 93-97 A / 90-92 A- / 88-89 B+ / 83-87 B / 80-82 B- / 78-79 C+ / 73-77 C / 70-72 C- / 60-69 D
<60 F

In addition, in the event that I must calculate grade fractions, I will always round up to the next highest point if you have a 0.45 or higher.

Grading rubric

Your grade in this class is based on a cumulative point total.

1 Introductory Survey (2 points)

7 Daily Quizzes (18 points each)

7 Daily In-Class Journal Assignments (2 point each)

1 Final Memorandum (50 points)

Total: 190 points

Attendance

This course has a minimum attendance requirement. You must attend the class 4 times, or your grade will be reduced by a flat 15 points.

If you attend at least 6 of the 8 web conferences, I will add up to 10 points to your lowest quiz grade (up to 100%).

Attendance at the web conferences is defined as being logged in for a critical mass of the class, but the roster shows me students who drop off the call because of bad internet connections (this will not count against). GMU policy is that you may not attend the web conferences while driving. This includes the conference call line as well.

Course schedule

Monday, May 23: Prelude to Nuremberg (Intro survey)

Wednesday, May 25: Transitional Justice (Daily Quiz 1 + Journal)

- Video lectures: Crimes of Nazis + Transitional Justice
- Reading: Martha Minow, "Making History or Making Peace"

No class on Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 1: Nuremberg Trials and After (Daily Quiz 2 + Journal)

- Video lectures: Nuremberg Trials + Postwar Restitution + Nazi Follow-Up Trials
- Reading: Francine Hirsch, "Nuremberg Trials as Cold War Competition"

Monday, June 6: Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and Substantive Criminal Law (Daily Quiz 3 + Journal)

- Video lectures: Principles of Criminal Law + Yugoslavia & Rwanda + Child Soldiers
- Reading: Kirsten Fischer, *Transitional Justice for Child Soldiers* (excerpt)

Wednesday, June 8: Hybrids to ICC (Daily Quiz 4 + Journal)

- Video lectures: Hybrid Tribunals + Origins of the ICC
- Reading: Nadia Bernaz, *Business and Human Rights* (excerpt)

Monday, June 13: New Developments in International Criminal Justice (Daily Quiz 5 + Journal)

- Video lectures: Rome Statute + Victims and Reparations + Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- Reading: Izabela Steflja and Jessica Trisko Darden, *Women as War Criminals* (excerpt)

Wednesday, June 15: New Players: African Union and European Union (Daily Quiz 6 + Journal)

- Video lectures: African Extraordinary Chambers + Kosovo Specialist Chambers + Africa and the ICC
- Reading: Leila Nadya Sadat, "A New Global Treaty on Crimes Against Humanity"

No class on Monday, June 20 for Juneteenth

Wednesday, June 22: Local Perspectives and New Frontiers (Daily Quiz 7 + Journal)

- Video lectures: Sentencing & Punishment + Justice Cascade + Local and Customary Processes
- Reading: Timothy Longman, "Assessment of Rwanda's Gacaca Courts"

Saturday, June 25: Memorandum Assignment Due (11:59 pm, submission on Blackboard)

Late Policy

The deadline for each daily quiz is 11 am the next morning. If you miss a quiz or did not complete it, you must let me know **the same day** and I will give you **up to 48 hours** to finish it. All late quizzes must be turned in no later than **48 hours after the last class**.

Journal assignments are intended to be completed either during the last part of class or immediately after class. The point of a journal assignment is to be a "conversation starter" the next morning, so I need time to read them. **Late journal entries will receive half credit.**

The grade penalty for a late paper is a flat 10% on the paper grade. However, I cannot change a grade once it has been submitted, so waiting too long could result in a zero for the paper.

Honor Code

Sharing of instructor-created materials, particularly materials relevant to assignments or exams, to public online "study" sites is considered a violation of Mason's Honor Code. For more information, see the Office of Academic Integrity's [summary of information about online study sites](#).

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification.

For the full Honor Code, see academicintegrity.gmu.edu.

Disability Accommodations

If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should (1) make sure this documentation is on file with Office for Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; <http://ods.gmu.edu>) to determine the accommodations you need; and (2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs. I want to be helpful.

Diversity/Inclusion

As a faculty member and designated “Responsible Employee,” I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s [Title IX Coordinator](#) per [university policy 1412](#). If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the [Student Support and Advocacy Center](#) (703-380-1434) or [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from [Mason’s Title IX Coordinator](#) (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).

This course seeks to create a learning environment that fosters respect for people across identities. We welcome and value individuals and their differences, including gender expression and identity, race, economic status, sex, sexuality, ethnicity, national origin, first language, religion, age and ability. We encourage all members of the learning environment to engage with the material personally, but to also be open to exploring and learning from experiences different than their own.