

Uganda

Post-Conflict Transformation

Examine the human cost of conflict in northern Uganda and the ways local communities are fostering peace, economic development, and sustainable reconciliation.

Coursework

Post-Conflict Transformation Seminar

PEAC 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The seminar explores the contextual and contemporary circumstances surrounding conflict as well as issues of national and ethnic identity, internally displaced people (IDP), and refugees. Students analyze institutional and cultural processes of peace restoration and community building. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as Gulu University, Makerere University, the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Seminar topics typically include:

Sociopolitical History of Conflicts in Uganda and Rwanda

The colonial legacy and the origins of conflict in Uganda; the political dimension of the conflict in northern Uganda; pre-genocide identity politics; post-genocide politics in Rwanda; post-conflict/genocide state building in Uganda and Rwanda.

Lake Victoria Basin Conflict Dynamics

International dimensions of conflict in Uganda and Rwanda; group and ethnic identity as causes of conflict; displaced persons and refugees; resettlement and relocation due to conflict; economic and social impacts of large-scale conflicts; local and international media coverage and global understanding.

Conflict Resolution and Prevention

Root causes and warning signs of conflicts; stages of conflict and genocide; the role of the International Criminal Court and international tribunals; justice at local and national levels; forgiveness and reconciliation in post-conflict/genocide Uganda and Rwanda; reintegration of former child soldiers in Uganda; post-conflict education and training programs; conflict memories, memorials, and outreach programs.

Educational Excursions

The program includes field visits to IDP and refugee camps, museums, sites of collective memory, genocide memorials, and organizations working in the areas of community building and transitional

justice. The program's excursion to Rwanda gives students the opportunity to study post-genocide restoration and peacebuilding in a comparative context and to learn about post-conflict transformation in the broader Great Lakes region.

Intensive Language Study: Acholi

ACHO 1000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Emphasis on introductory speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Formal instruction is augmented by language practice with host families during the homestay.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; identifying contacts and resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal. Given the emotional impact of the program and the effects this may have on students, the course devotes additional time to psychological orientation and extended debriefing to process site visits and field experiences.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Gulu or another approved location in Uganda appropriate to the project. Sample topic areas: migration in northern Uganda; peace camp curriculum; national holidays and celebrations as markers of identity development; local perspectives on peace negotiations; print and radio coverage of conflict in Uganda; traditional political structures; economic dimensions of conflict; traditional justice systems; challenges of post-conflict reconstruction; gender and conflict; the politics of conflict memory; counseling and psychosocial support in post-conflict environments.

If students so choose, and with approval from the academic director, they may design their projects as a practicum or service learning project with a



Credits 16

Program Base Gulu

Language Study Acholi

Homestay Gulu, 6 weeks

Other Accommodations Hostels, guest houses, or small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites Although there are no prerequisites, students should have an understanding of issues related to conflict theories and exhibit the sensitivity and psychological as well as emotional maturity required to deal with these difficult and intense subjects. Dealing with conflict/genocide and its aftermath, not only through lectures but also through field trips, can at times be upsetting and difficult to experience. An interview may be required prior to acceptance.

community organization or NGO. Sample internship sites include: Human Rights Focus; Caritas; Concerned Parents Association; St. Mary Hospital Lacor; Invisible Children; the Acholi Cultural Institution (Ker Kwaro).



Photo by Joel Smus

Residents at Uganda's Nakivale Refugee Camp meet for the morning call to prayer.