

**RDEV 40590: Sociology of Transition Societies (10 ECTS)**

This module seeks to understand the transition context from the perspective of key social institutions, local stakeholders and grassroots level organizations. The overall purpose of the module is to illustrate the issues and challenges that post-conflict societies face in breaking the vicious cycle of violence and generating conditions for positive peace and sustainable development. The module has four key components which are described below:

**1. Introduction to Sociology of Transition Societies- 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

The purpose of this session is to introduce the module and lay the groundwork for the subsequent sessions in course. The key concepts and theories in Sociology and their application to post-conflict transition contexts will be discussed here. The session will also introduce the assignments associated with this module.

Readings: No advance readings associated with this sessions. A copy of the module outline and assignments will be provided in class.

Schedule: 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016, 2pm-5pm, G01

**2. Mapping Transition Societies: The Northern Ireland Case- 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May**

This component of the module comprises of a 2-day workshop followed by a 3- day field trip Northern Ireland. Using the Northern Ireland case, this component will illustrate the challenges of mapping, planning and implementing humanitarian operations after peace has been brokered. To begin, students will participate in a two-day workshop on *Managing Humanitarian Operations in Transition Contexts* (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May) to familiarize themselves with the different models of humanitarian intervention and protection in post-conflict transition societies. This will be followed by the Northern Ireland field trip where the group will meet local stakeholders from both sides of the conflict who deal with the legacy of the conflict on a day-to-day basis. There is a group assignment (40%) associated with this component.

Readings: There are advance readings associated with this workshop. Students will be expected to have completed these readings before the workshop

Schedule: 5<sup>th</sup> May, 10am-5pm, G01; 6<sup>th</sup> May, 10am-5pm, G01

**3. Role of Societal Institutions in Post-Disaster Reconstruction- 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> May**

Building on the Northern Ireland field experience, this component of the course will focus on societal institutions and actors that help in the reconstruction process such as- cross community initiatives for youth support, role of religion, education and media. Finally it will analyze the key issues of governance in transition. This component will be delivered by a series of guest lecturers from community based organizations, national media and humanitarian NGO. Readings for this session will be provided at the end of week 1 of the course. There is an individual assignment (30%) associated with this component.

Readings: Readings will be uploaded on Blackboard

Schedule: **16<sup>th</sup> May**-11am-4pm: G01; **17<sup>th</sup> May**- 11am-4pm: G01; **18<sup>th</sup> May**- 11am-4pm: G01; **19<sup>th</sup> May**- 11am-4pm; G01; **20<sup>th</sup> May**- 11am-4pm; G01

**4. Cross-Cutting Issues of Transition Contexts**

This final component of the module will consist of two sessions to recapitulate the previous lectures and dwell on some of the key issues and dilemmas of the transition context often known as the *justice vs peace* debate, issues of truth and reconciliation, from vulnerability to social capital etc.

Readings: Readings will be uploaded on Blackboard at the end of Week 1  
Schedule: **24<sup>th</sup> May**- 11am-4pm; **26<sup>th</sup> May**-11am-4pm

### **Assignments and Exams**

#### **1. ASSIGNMENT 1: Group Assignment- Understanding the Nature of Humanitarian Issues in Northern Ireland**

- Each group is required to analyse the humanitarian nature of the current context in Northern Ireland as seen through their chosen framework<sup>1</sup>.
- The assignment needs to demonstrate the arguments *for and against* each perspective before offering an argued answer, which will need to be justified.
- Each group will be required to submit a joint report of maximum 2000 word (excluding references, footnotes and annexes). Deadline for submission of joint report is 2<sup>nd</sup> June midnight via NOHA Blackboard.
- Each group will be required to make a presentation based on their project report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Every group will have 20 minutes for their presentation followed by 10 minutes of questions from the class. This will be followed by a plenary session. Further details of the presentation will be available closer to the date.
- Each assignment will be graded as a whole i.e. report plus presentation

The assignment constitutes 40% of the overall assessment for the module. Each group will get a letter grade for this assignment (project report + presentation).

#### **2. ASSIGNMENT 2: Individual Assignment- Role of Social Institutions in Post-Conflict Reconstruction**

- The purpose of this individual essay is to *critically analyse social institutions in post-conflict societies in terms of the challenges they face and the range of roles they can play in the reconstruction process.*
- Each essay is required to focus on *any one* social institution such as family, religion, education, media etc. It is expected that each essay will illustrate their arguments with the help of a case study. Students can choose a case from Northern Ireland but are equally welcome to choose a case from another transition context provided they have enough material to do justice to the assignment. The essay should critically analyse (1) theoretical perspectives on the institutions (2) the key issues and challenges faced by the institution in the aftermath of a conflict, (3) the range of roles the chosen institution can play in the transition context (4) a critical analysis of interventions by internal and external actors to rebuild the said institution and their outcomes
- This assignment will be assessed on the basis of an essay paper (2000-2500 words) to be handed in by 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 via NOHA Blackboard.

#### **3. END OF MODULE EXAM (30%):** There will be a 2-hour exam on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2016. The details of the exam will be discussed in class.

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<sup>1</sup> The available frameworks are: Humanitarian Threshold, Egg Protection Model, Complementarity and Modes of Action. Each student will be part of a group working on one of these frameworks. Please contact the class representative regarding joining a group.