

Justice, Peace and Reconciliation (LAW 459)

Credit Hours: 4

Pre-Req: Introduction to Legal Reasoning (LAW 101) OR Introduction to Pakistan Legal System (LAW 102)

Instructor: Emad Ansari

Schedule: Monday to Friday (2.00 PM – 4.50 PM)

This course is intended to introduce students to the complex work of recognizing, reckoning with, and repairing historical harms. Addressing historical crimes or violations of human rights begins, necessarily, with an acknowledgment that damage has occurred to persons and communities, and to begin excavating and validating histories that have been actively written out or “forgotten.” The work of addressing historical harms is also, simultaneously, a legal, historical, and political project. Attempts to address historical wrongs have taken various, different forms, from outright legal claims grounded in conventional legal strategies and taken to courts to quasilegal truth and reconciliation efforts, or reparations and apologies issued by the party that committed the harm. Very often, the foundations of the existing law at the time a claim is made is built upon the bones of communities that have been wronged. The course will explore these contradictions, study several case studies that illustrate different approaches taken to bring peace to communities affected by violence, and discuss these examples with relevance to local struggles—based on gender, ethnicity, language, and class—for justice and peace.