ALST/PCON 355 (Spring 2013)
Rwanda since the 1994 Genocide

Professor: Susan Thomson (sthomson@colgate.edu)    Office: Alumni 223

Class schedule: 111 Alumni, Tuesday and Thursday, 120 to 235pm.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30am to 11:45am, Friday, 2 to 5pm.

How has Rwanda been governed since 1994? This course is an interdisciplinary study of the postgenocide order with an emphasis on the socio-political legacy of the genocide, and the post-1994 rule of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Under the leadership of General Paul Kagame, the RPF claims to have restored ethnic unity to the country in the name of national unity and reconciliation. The purpose of this course is to assess the Rwandan experience of postconflict reconstruction and reconciliation in context and from the perspective of Rwandans themselves to ask, how sustainable is the country's postgenocide recovery? As these two images attest, it is a country that is characterized both by the militarization of society in the wake of the 1994 genocide and rapid economic growth (concentrated in Kigali and other urban centers).

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, you will have gained the following:

1. Knowledge of the main analytical frameworks to understand and explain postgenocide institutional reconstruction and reconciliation;
2. Assess knowledge claims about everyday life in postgenocide Rwanda from a variety of academic and non-academic sources;
3. Ability to think critically in analyzing, evaluating, and making well-developed, carefully considered arguments of the course material;
4. Ability to design a ‘human subjects’ research proposal, rooted in The Belmont Principles of ethical research and highlighting its shortcomings in the context of research in postconflict societies like Rwanda.

Required Readings: These texts are available for purchase in the bookstore or online.


ALST/PCON 355 On-line readings: Available on our Moodle site.

**Course Components:** Your final grade will be based on point earned in six different course components (and one optional one). This allows you the most flexibility to achieve the best grade possible. This is a rigorous course and doing well means that you must excel in all assigned components. A point total of 270 will earn you an ‘A’ for the course, per the scale of 300 below. Since class meetings are dedicated to discussion, lectures, group activities, multimedia, and student presentations, full attendance is essential. Missing more than two classes, whether excused or not, will reduce your grade (religious holidays and “life events” are always excused with documentation). Please come see me, during office hours or by appointment as often as you need for support, clarification or guidance.

1. Discussion leading: 35 points
2. Weekly Blogging: 60 points (top six self-selected entries graded)
3. Human Subjects IRB Application: 100 points
4. Final Exam Meeting: 50 points
5. General Participation: 40 points
6. Attendance at three PCON events: 15 points
7. Extra Credit: Blogging about non-assigned chapters of Umutesi: 20 points (5 chapters @ 4 points each)


**1. Discussion Leading:** Students will each lead one class of their choice during the semester. Responsibilities of the discussion leader are briefly summarizing the key points of the readings, formulating provocative and engaging questions to encourage critical discussion, and writing a one-page narrative summary of the discussion to be shared with the class before our classroom meeting. Note too that I will lead all of the classes dedicated to helping you prepare your IRB application.

**2. Weekly Blogging:** There are two components to the blog. What follows are the expectations for the assignment and the technical aspects of uploading your blog entry. I will hand out separate instructions on how to gain access to our course blog in class. They are also available on Moodle in the Resources section (file titled, “Blog Access and Evaluation.pdf).

Post an entry at least once a week that is between 100-200 words, required beginning in the 2nd week of class (week of January 28 and ending the week of classes, meaning week of April 22).

You can blog as often as you like, including short posts, as long as you have at least one post a week that is the minimum length. Check the blog daily so you can keep up with the conversation threads and latest news. Feel free to link the blog to your social media accounts if you like.

**WHAT TO BLOG ABOUT:**

1. Responses to questions posed in class and contribute to a conversation thread
2. Original entries on Rwanda, your own commentary and questions on the readings and topics raised in class;
3. Responses to issues and questions raised in your participation at three PCON events;
4. Post links to news, videos, online research etc. with your commentary on it.

5. Twitter is a great news source. I recommend following at least six accounts: 

1) a Rwandan government ministry or other organ of government (MININTER-@Rwandalnternal, MINALOC - @RwandaLocalGov MINAFFET - @MinafetRwanda; ORINFOR- @ORINFOR1, etc); 2) Office of the Rwandan President (@UrugwiroVillage) or the President himself (@paulkagame) 3) a Rwandan opposition political party or representative. Be sure to also follow the RPF (@rpfinkotanyi - the party of the current government) and an opposition one (e.g., Rwanda Greens - @rwandangreens, FDU-Inkingi - @FDU_UDF); 4) A pro-government Rwandan journalist/blogger/social activist, etc (the newspaper of record is The New Times - @NewTimesRwanda); 5) a blogger critical of government; 6) an international activist, journalist or academic blogging/tweeting on Rwanda. We will search Twitter accounts in class.

6. You can also set up a Google alert for “Rwanda” and “Kigali” to receive a daily news digest.

To post a new entry:
1. Go to the top and click on “My blog,” then “New post”
2. Writing a post is straightforward and don’t worry if you make a mistake or decide later that you don’t like what you wrote– you can always delete it or save drafts as you go along
3. Make sure to add a category (e.g. news, reading responses, etc.) and some tags (e.g. Kagame, RPF, economy, justice, memory, gacaca, etc, etc)
4. You can add various sorts of media, such as audio and video files;
5. To add a working link, write then highlight the text you want linked – then click on the thing that looks like a chain link and enter the URL;
6. When you’re done click “publish”;
7. To respond to a post simply click on reply or comments and add your own commentary to contribute to the conversation (Only the original post can assign categories and tags).

3. Mock Human Subjects Institutional Review Board Application (Full draft due April 30): Any researcher who wants to study “human subjects” must prepare an application to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of your home institution. For Colgate students, you must apply to our IRB to get the requisite approvals to confirm that you will undertake ethical research. This is particularly important in locales where the power dynamic between researcher and researched is vast and vexed as it is in the Rwandan case. Will we work together over the course of the semester to develop your mock individual IRB application. This means that you will be able to summarize your proposed research topics, the question(s) and main hypotheses (if any) and “describe” your research “sample” to a committee made up of other social science researchers (in this case, me). Your application will be divided into three main sections that you will “defend” in a one-on-one meeting with me (as your final exam, see below).

The three main sections are:

1) Identifying individuals to participate in your study as well as discussion of the characteristics of the participants, including age, sex, conditions of vulnerability if any, and anything else of import like special conditions that impact your ability as the researcher to identify willing participants, and language considerations, if any. In addition, how to obtain the
consent and ensure continued consent of all participants throughout your research project. This includes drafting a consent form that makes the purpose of your project, and any risks or benefits that may be associated with speaking to you, a foreign researcher, are understood by potential research participants before they agree to talk to you. If you decide, because of the marginality or vulnerability of your proposed human subjects, that obtaining written consent is in appropriate, be sure to explain why in this section of your draft application. **Draft due: Tuesday, April 9 via Moodle**

2) The procedures that you will follow in your research to ensure the safety and emotional and physical security of your research participants, including describing the methods of gathering “data” you will employ, how you will ensure confidentiality and anonymity for those who you interview and/or consult. **Draft due: Tuesday, April 16 via Moodle.**

3) The safeguards and other procedures you have put in place to ensure that none of your research participants are “harmed” before, during or after participating in your research project, and how you will anticipate and mitigate any potential physical and/or emotional harms for both you and them. **Draft due: Tuesday, April 23 via Moodle**

**Proposal Deadlines:** All written assignments due via Moodle by 23:55 on the due date. Here, I outline for your ease of reference the various written assignments that comprise the Research Proposal and Presentation. If you need support or guidance, come see me

**March 7:** Decide on your research topic by today. Get my approval during office hours (5 pts)

**March 26:** Research statement & annotated bib. (5 academic & 3 non-academic) (10 pts)

**April 2:** Draft Literature Review with 8 sources (academic & non-academic) (15 pts)

**April 9:** Identification of “Respondents,” Informed Consent Form and Field Site (5 pts)

**April 16:** Emotional & Physical Safety and Security, including confidentiality and anonymity protocol (5pts)

**April 23:** Safety and Security Safeguards for you and your “respondents” (5pts)

**April 30:** Collated Draft Methodology Protocol (15 pts)

**May 3:** Final Written Proposal due (40pts)

**4. Final Exam Meeting:** As a capstone to the rigorous exercise that is drafting an IRB application, your final exam is a 20-minute one-on-one meeting with me (set at your convenience during exam week, except the Wednesday study day and ending no later than 5pm on Friday, May 10). This meeting will be set up as a mock IRB meeting in which the researcher (you) and the chair of the committee (me) meet to discuss the rationale behind your ethical and methodological choices to study contemporary Rwanda. I will send out a Google Docs asking you to sign up for your exam meeting in mid-April.

**5. Class Participation:** Your success in this course depends on your active participation. You must come to class prepared to listen, digest, and analyze all the assigned reading material.

*Please do not interrupt the flow of class by leaving during our meetings for whatever reason.* Cell phones must be turned off while in class. *Computer, tablet and smartphone use must only be for note taking.* By entering the class you agree not to use your computer for any other purposes.

**6. Attendance at three extra-curricular PCON events:** Rather than offer extra-credit for attending the various PCON events that constitute our busy extra-curricular schedule, I have
decided to integrate points for attending the events of your choice into the core of the course. What you need to do is attend three events (in addition to Jennie Burnet two talks on March 4 and blog about the event. This means three additional blog postings beyond the weekly ones that are already required. The same blog rules apply (100-200 words with relevant key word tags and links to external sources where appropriate)

Course Policies: Special needs will be accommodated. If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact Lynn Waldman, Director of Academic Support and Disability Services at 315-228-7375 in the Center for Learning, Teaching, and Research. Lynn reviews documentation to determine and help coordinate reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Come discuss with me, bringing the appropriate documentation before your first assignment is due.

Plagiarism of any sort is not tolerated. Please consult the University’s ‘Academic Honor Code’ here, http://www.colgate.edu/offices/campuslife/deanofthecollege/academichonorcode

Late policy: All assignment must be submitted on time. Your grade will be docked one-third of a letter grade each day it is late (e.g., B → B-). Work more than one week late will not be accepted. No exceptions.

TOPICS and READINGS

Tuesday, January 22: Contemporary Rwanda: Rhetoric? Reality?


1. "Remaking Rwanda” or “Wishing to deconstruct Rwanda?” by Pan Butare
2. ‘Remaking Rwanda: Only Rwandans can do it’ by Joseph Rwagatare

Thursday, January 24: A Middle Ground? Our framework of analysis for the course


Tuesday, January 29: Everyday Life in a Postgenocide and Stratified Society
Burnet, Jennie (2012) “Social Classification, State Power and Violence” in Genocide Lives in Us:
Women, Memory and Silence in Rwanda, pp. 41-58 (to the section entitled, “Civil War...”), Madison, University of Wisconsin Press. Moodle.


Umutesi, “Chapter 1: I Discover my Ethnic Identity” and “Chapter 7: Hunted by the Rebels and the RPF” in Surviving the Slaughter, pp. 6-17 and pp. 122-137

Thursday, January 31: Looking Back to Understand Today (History as Method)


In class documentary (clips): de Heusch, Luc and Kathleen De Bethune (1996) A Republic Gone Mad: Rwanda 1894-1994 (we will watch up to 1962, approximately 32 minutes)

Monday, February 4: PCON Film Series: Jackson, Lisa (dir.). (2007) The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo, 76min. Participation a very good idea as events in Congo bear directly on our course.

Tuesday, February 5: Thinking about Research in Rwanda, w/ guest speaker Erin Jessee


Thursday, February 7, ALST Speakers Series, ALANA, 1130am to 1pm (lunch provided): Susan Thomson, “Rwanda Now: Current status and role in the DRC conflict.”

Thursday, February 7: Causes of the 1994 Genocide


Monday, February 11, PCON Lecture Series: Mark LeVine, on the Middle East. 7pm Love Auditorium.

Tuesday, February 12: Who Killed and Why?

Umutesi textbook, “Chapter 4: Survival in the Camps at Kivu” and “Chapter 11: The End of the Ordeal” pp. 71-88 and, pp. 223-246.

National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, under the direction of Dr. Anastase Shyaka (2007) “Preamble” and “Foundations of the National Unity and Reconciliation Policy” in The National Unity and Reconciliation Policy, pp. 1-6, Kigali: NURC.


**Thursday, February 14: On Ethnicity, Power and Politics**


No author (n.d.) “Rwanda: A Country of Interest”

In class documentary: Ghosts of Rwanda (2004), clips from.

**Monday, February 18, PCON Movie Night @Hamilton Theatre:** Bernard, Raymond, dir. (1932) Les Croix du Bois (Wooden Crosses), 113 minutes.

**Tuesday, February 19: Development without Politics I: Making Good Citizens**


**Thursday, February 21: Development without Politics II: An Economic Miracle?**


Hayman, Rachel “Chapter 7: Funding Fraud? Donors and Democracy in Rwanda” in our Straus and Waldorf textbook, pp. 118-131.

Tuesday, February 26: Rwanda’s Democratic Transition: Increasing Authoritarianism & Closure of the Political Space


Longman, Timothy “Chapter 1: Limitations to Political Reform: The Undemocratic Nature of Transition in Rwanda” in our Straus and Waldorf textbook, pp. 25-47.


Guest Speaker: Professor Noel Twagiramungu (Smith College, and former Executive Director of a Rwandan human rights organization that the RPF forcibly shut down) on freedom of expression and the strains of daily life under RPF rule (by Skype and to be confirmed (TBC)).

Thursday, February 28: More Women equals Better Democracy?


Monday, March 4: Jennie Burnet, Brown Bag (11:30am) and Lecture (7pm): Both events are MANDATORY. If you have a scheduling conflict, let me know before her talks. Note that there is no class tomorrow to compensate for today’s heavy schedule.

Brown Bag: “Doing Research in Rwanda: Ethical and Practical Challenges,” PCON/WMST Brown Bag. PCON “War Room” (2nd Floor, Alumni), 1130am to 1pm. A good opportunity to integrate lessons from Dr. Burnet’s experience into your IRB application assignment.

Guest Lecture: “Women and Peacebuilding: Lessons Learned from Post-Genocide Rwanda.” @Love Auditorium, 7pm.

Tuesday, March 5: Class Cancelled as I host our guest speaker across campus.

Thursday, March 7: “Human Subjects Research” in Rwanda (Topic choice deadline – nothing written. Get approval during my office hours later than today)


Tuesday, March 12 & Thursday, March 14: Mid-Term Recess. Class Cancelled.

Tuesday, March 19: The “Plumbing” of the Rwandan State


Ingelaere, Bert “The Ruler’s Drum and the People’s Shout: Accountability and Representation on Rwanda’s Hills” in our Straus and Waldorf textbook, pp. 67-75.


Thursday, March 21: “Party”-Statals and Rwanda’s Private Sector Development w/ Guest Speaker Nilgun Gökgür


Tuesday, March 26: Research Skills, The Ethics of Research in Conflict Environments (Research statement & annotated bib. due via Moodle)


Thursday, March 28: Research Skills, Gaining Access


Monday, April 1, PCON Movie Night: Lebowskifest in the Visual Lab, 7pm.
Tuesday, April 2: Elite Ambitions and Rural Realities (Draft Literature Review Due via Moodle)

Newbury, Catharine “High Modernism at the Ground Level: The Imidugudu Policy in Rwanda” in our Straus and Waldorf textbook, pp. 223-239.


Thursday, April 4: Post-Genocide Justice: International and Local


Tuesday, April 9: The Politics of Justice and Reconciliation (Identification of “Respondents,” Informed Consent Form and Field Site draft Protocol due via Moodle)


Guest Speaker: Carina Tertsakian, Human Rights Watch researcher on Rwanda (by Skype and TBC)

Thursday, April 11: Poverty Reduction Programs


Monday, April 15, PCON Movie Night: Silvia M.T., dir. (2010), Atomic Mom. 87 minutes.

Tuesday, April 16: Genocide Ideology and Ethnic “Divisionism” (Emotional & Physical Safety and Security, including confidentiality and anonymity protocol due via Moodle)


Thursday, April 18: Research Skills, Thinking about Safety and Security


Tuesday, April 23: History and Memory (Safety and Security Safeguards for you and your “respondents” Protocol due via Moodle)


Meierhenrich, Jens “Topographies of Remembering and Forgetting: The Transformation of Lieux de Memoire in Rwanda” in our Straus and Waldorf textbook, pp. 283-296.

“Strategies,” “Implementation” and “Conclusion” in *The National Unity and Reconciliation Policy*, pp. 6-17 Kigali: NURC. Moodle.

**Thursday, April 25: Regional Relations**

Reyntjens, Filip “Waging (Civil War) Abroad: Rwanda and the DRC” in our Straus and Waldorf textbook, pp. 132-151.


Recommended: Mancini, Francesco (2013) “Interview with Steve Hege, Former Coordinator, UN Group of Experts on the DRC” January 16. *Global Observatory*

**In class Podcast:** Chatham House (2012) “M23 and the Challenges for Peace in Eastern DRC” December 17.

**Tuesday, April 30: The Dance Remains the Same? (Draft Methodology Protocol due via Moodle)**

Sebarenzi, Joseph “Justice and Human Rights for All Rwandans” in our Straus and Waldorf textbook, pp. 343-353.

Habimana, Aloys “The Dancing is Still the Same” in our Straus and Waldorf textbook, pp. 354-356.


**Guest Speaker:** Joseph Sebarenzi, exiled former Speaker of the Rwandan Parliament (by Skype, and TBC).

**Thursday, May 2: Peer Review of your IRB proposal as prep for the Final Exam**

**Exam Week: Proposal defense meeting.** Schedule your meeting via the Google Drive file I will sent out in early April.