



SCHOOL OF LAW

MHR6212: CULTURE, CONFLICT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

APRIL 2026

LECTURERS: Dr. L. Sithole

DURATION:3HRS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Do NOT write your name on the answer sheet
2. Answer ALL questions only.
3. Begin your answer for each question on a new page
4. Exam is worth **100 marks**.

Question 1

‘No single theory of conflict can adequately explain the cultural and human rights dimensions of contemporary warfare.’ Critically evaluate this statement using at least three conflict theories and empirical examples from different regions. **[50 Marks]**

Question 2

To address mass human rights violations in post-genocide Rwanda, the government adopted what is known as *Gacaca* courts – a community-based justice mechanism rooted in local cultural practices. While praised for promoting reconciliation and local participation, *Gacaca* courts have also been criticised for due process shortcomings and political manipulation. International human rights actors remain divided on whether such culturally grounded mechanisms adequately meet international justice standards. At the same time, Rwanda’s experience has influenced peacebuilding approaches in other post-conflict societies seeking culturally resonant alternatives to international tribunals.

Critically evaluate the use of culturally grounded justice mechanisms in post-conflict settings. Can such approaches advance both reconciliation and human rights accountability, or do they expose fundamental tensions between culture and universal legal norms? **[50 Marks]**

THE END