

Political Science 241
Politics of Genocide
Welles 128
M-W-F 8:00-8:50

Prof. Edward Drachman
Welles 3B
Office Hours: M W
10-11:30 and by appt.

Course Description:

This course investigates the main causes and roots of evil and cruelty that are examined through learning about genocide in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Students will use the case method to study genocides and mass murders including, for example, the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, the Cambodian “killing fields”, and the tragedies in Rwanda and Darfur. While the primary emphasis will be on comparative political analysis of various genocides, the overall approach is interdisciplinary drawing especially upon psychology, history, and religion.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to do the following:

1. Define and conceptualize genocide.
2. Know and understand the main causes of genocide.
3. Know and utilize various theories that best explain genocide.
4. Compare and contrast various genocides, mainly from the perspective of comparative politics.
5. Identify and analyze various methods that countries have used after genocides for healing, justice, punishment, etc. (e.g., War Crimes Trials and Truth and Reconciliation Commissions).

Required Texts

Adam Jones. GENOCIDE: A COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION. Routledge/Taylor & Francis Publishers, 2006

Doris Bergen. WAR AND GENOCIDE: A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST. Rowman & Littlefield, 2003

Elie Wiesel. NIGHT.

Philip Gourevitch. WE WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT TOMORROW WE WILL BE KILLED WITH OUR FAMILIES. Picador, 2003

Loung Ung. FIRST THEY KILLED MY FATHER: A DAUGHTER OF CAMBODIA REMEMBERS. HarperCollins, 2000

Iris Chang. THE RAPE OF NANKING: THE FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST OF WORLD WAR II, Penguin, 1997

Accommodations

The instructor will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented physical, emotional or learning disabilities. Students should consult with the Director of Disability Services (Tabitha Bugge-Hunt, Erwin 105D) and the instructor regarding any needed accommodations as early in the semester as possible.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend, be prepared for, and participate in all classes for successful completion of the course.

Grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes and class participation	20% of grade
2 midterm exams	20% of grade
Research paper	30% of grade
Final exam	30% of grade

QUIZZES AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Your grade will be based partly on scores on a number of unannounced quizzes and partly on your performance in class. The following is expected of all students:

- Take initiative in class discussion.
- Answer questions in class discussion.
- Support, question, or challenge positions/ideas/arguments of instructor and fellow students.
- Raise pertinent questions from readings and current events.

RESEARCH PAPER

Topic: Any subject directly related to the course. It is strongly advised that students clear their topic with the instructor early in the semester.

Length: Approximately 10 pages (including notes and bibliography), typed and double-spaced, font #12. You may use any generally accepted style manual.

Grading: Grades will be based on the quality of content, research, analysis and writing. A minimum of 2 primary sources, 2 research articles from scholarly journals, and 2 books must be utilized.

Due date: Papers (hard copy only) must be submitted at the beginning of class on Monday, April 26. No late papers will be accepted.

A warning on plagiarism: All work must be your own. If plagiarism is detected, the student will fail the course and his/her case will be referred to the Dean for disciplinary action.

Class Attendance: Students with more than four (4) unexcused absences will not receive credit for the course.

COURSE OUTLINE

- All articles may be found on the web without charge.

1. INTRODUCTION

January 20

2. DEFINING GENOCIDE

January 22

Read: Jones, Introduction and Chapter 1; R.J. Rummel, “Genocide”, 2002 (Pay special attention to Stanton’s 8 stages of genocide, and check links for further information.) Raphael Lemkin, “Genocide,” *American Scholar*, Vol. 15 (April 1946), pp. 227-230

3. THE PSYCHOLOGY OF GENOCIDE: PERPETRATORS, BYSTANDERS, AND RESCUERS

Jan. 25-29

Read: Jones, Chapter 10 (especially the Milgram and Zimbardo experiments, and the theories of Browning and Goldhagen); Suzy Hansen, “Ordinary People, Extraordinary Evil,” Salon.com; James Waller, “Perpetrators of Genocide: An Explanatory Model of Extraordinary Human Evil,” *Journal of Hate Studies*, 2001-02

4. GENOCIDE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES; RELATIONSHIP OF GENOCIDE TO WAR, REVOLUTION, POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND GENDER

February 1-3

Video: “Australian Aboriginal Genocide” (6 minutes)

Read: Jones, Chapters 2, 3, 12 and 13; Guenther Lewy: “Were American Indians the Victims of Genocide?” *Commentary Magazine*, Sept. 2004

5. THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

February 5-10

Video: PBS Documentary; and BBC Documentary, “The Betrayed” (42 minutes)

Read: Jones, Chapter 4; Roger Smith, E. Markusen, and Robert Jay Lifton, “Professional Ethics and the Denial of the Armenian Genocide,” *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, spring 2005; Guenther Lewy, “Revisiting the Armenian Genocide,” *The Middle East Quarterly*, fall 2005; V. Dadrian Responds to Guenther Lewy,” *Dhimmi Watch*, October 18, 2005

6. THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE OF THE EARLY 1930s

February 12-15

Video: “Harvest of Despair” (55 minutes)

Read: Jones, Chapter 5; Orysia Tracz, “Denied, Defiled, or Ignored—The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 Fifty Years Later,” Gendercide Website, Case Study on Ukrainian Famine

7. JAPAN’S GENOCIDE IN CHINA

February 17-22

Video: “History under Cover: Rape of Nanking;”

Read: Chang (entire)

FIRST MIDTERM EXAM: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8. THE HOLOCAUST

Feb. 26- March 12

Videos: “Night and Fog;” and PBS Frontline, “Memory of the Camps”
(Alfred Hitchcock Holocaust documentary, 42 minutes)

Read: Jones, Chapter, 6; Wiesel (entire); and Bergen (entire, *passim*);

Baruch Cohen, “The Ethics of Using Medical Data From Nazi Experiments,” *Jewish Law Articles*, 2003; “Downplaying the Parrajmos: The Trend to Minimize the Romani Holocaust,” A Review of Guenther Lewy, *The Nazi Persecution of the Gypsies*, Oxford, 2000

SPRING VACATION: March 15-19

9. THE CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE

March 22-26

Video: “Biography of Pol Pot”

Read: Jones, Chapter 7; Ung (entire, *passim*)

SECOND MIDTERM EXAM: MONDAY, MARCH 29

10. GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA AND KOSOVO

March 31-Apr 2

Read: Jones, Chapter 8

11. GENOCIDE IN RWANDA

April 5-9

Video: PBS Frontline, “The Ghosts of Rwanda”

Read: Jones, Chapter 9; Gourevitch (entire, *passim*); Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide,” *Atlantic Online*, September 2001; G. Stanton, “Could the Rwandan Genocide Have Been Prevented?” (2002)

12. GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

April 12-16

Video: PBS Frontline, “Never Again”

Read: Scott Straus, “Darfur and the Genocide Debate,” *Foreign Affairs*, Feb. 2005; Scott Anderson, “How did Darfur Happen?” *New York Times Magazine*, Oct. 17, 2004; Samantha Power, “Dying in Darfur,” *The New Yorker*, Aug. 8, 2004; Major Brent Beardsley, “Learning from the Rwandan Genocide of 1994 to Stop the Genocide in Darfur,” *Canadian Military Journal*, spring 2005; Jeffrey Gettleman, “fragile Calm Holds in Darfur After Years of Death,” *New York Times*, January 2, 2010

13. SADDAM HUSSEIN’S ANFAL AGAINST THE KURDS

April 19-21

Read: Gendercide, Case Study; Human Rights Watch, “Genocide in Iraq: The Anfal Campaign against the Kurds,” 1993 (*passim*)

14. U.S. ATROCITIES: MY LAI MASSACRE, ABU GHRAIB

April 23-26

Read: Philip Beidler, “Calley’s Ghost,” *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, 2003; Robert Jay Lifton, “Conditions of Atrocity,” *The Nation*, May 13, 2004; Mark Benjamin, “The Abu Ghraib Files,” *Salon Exclusive*, March 10, 2006

15. AFTER THE GENOCIDE: DEALING WITH PERPETRATORS AND VICTIMS; MEMORY AND DENIAL April 28-30

Video: "The Trial of Adolf Eichmann"

Video: Great Decisions 2007: "The Debate over the International Criminal Court"

Read: Jones, Chapters 14-16

Ervin Staub, "Preventing Genocide: Activating Bystanders, Helping Victims, and the Creation of Caring," *Journal of Cultural Criticism*, February 2000; Donald Kraybill, "Why the Amish Forgive So Quickly," *Christian Science Monitor*, October 2, 2007; Jonathan Tepperman, "Truth and Consequences," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2002; Lawrence Wright, "The Trials of the Century," *New York Times*, September 22, 2006; Charles Ogletree, "The Case for Reparations," *USA Weekend*, August 16-18, 2002; John McWhorter, "Against Reparations," *The New Republic*, July 23, 2001

Website: The International Campaign to End Genocide

17. CONCLUSIONS AND PREDICTIONS

May 3

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, MAY 6, 8-11 A.M.