



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 470 L01 FALL 2019
GENOCIDE

INSTRUCTOR: Sara Skinner

OFFICE: SS 749

EMAIL: smskinne@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 3:45-4:45 or by appointment.

COURSE DAY/TIME: Thursday - 5:00pm- 7:45pm

COURSE LOCATION: Science Theatres 126

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: POLI 359 or POLI 381 or LWSO 201 or by consent of the Department

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to comparative genocide studies. The course examines various cases of genocide and mass violence as well as the problems of justice and reconciliation in post-genocide societies. The course will explore three broad themes- the first is the evolution of genocide studies including legal and conceptual definitions of genocide and theoretical explanations of the causes and processes of genocide. The second theme will be to explore prevention, intervention, and justice as it relates to genocide. The final theme and the mainstay of our time will be to focus on specific cases of genocidal destruction – please note that inclusion or omission of any case does not signify its importance, rather an unfortunate abundance of cases to select from. Within the cases we will consider precipitating causes, methods of destruction, and the aftermath of genocide.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course is designed to expose students to the issues and debates surrounding the definition, causes, punishment, and aftermath of genocidal violence. At the end of this course the students will be able to:

- Explain how genocide is defined in the academic literature as a concept and as a crime under international law;
- Analyze traditional and critical theories concerning the causes and processes of genocidal violence and how genocide is explained using multiple levels of analysis;
- Compare the roles of international and domestic laws, tribunals, courts, and alternative forms of justice in the punishment of the crime of genocide; and
- Explain how post-genocidal societies and genocide survivors attempt to come to terms with the legacy of this particular form of extraordinary violence.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Both required texts can be found at the University Bookstore.

1) *Centuries of Genocide: Essays and Eyewitness Accounts*, Forth Edition, Edited by Samuel Totten and William S. Parsons, ISBN: 987-0-415-87192-1

2) *Confronting Evil: Engaging Our Responsibility to Prevent Genocide*, James Waller, ISBN: 978-0-199-30070-9

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

| COMPONENT | WEIGHTING | DUE DATES |
|--|-----------|---|
| Critical Reading Reflection: A critical reading reflection based on readings dealing with the theory of genocide. Approximately 8 pages double spaced. More information will be provided in class and through D2L. | 25% | October 3rd 2019 Submitted through D2L no later than 11:59 pm. |
| Research Paper: A research paper on a case of genocide that is included in the case studies examined in this class. Approximately 15 pages double spaced. More information will be provided in class and through D2L. | 30% | November 7th 2019 Submitted through D2L no later than 11:59 pm. |
| Final Exam: Long and short answer questions. No aids will be allowed. | 35% | 3 Hour Exam, During Final Exam Schedule |
| Participation: All students are expected to participate in class discussion and in-class activities. | 10% | Ongoing/ Weekly |
| Total | 100% | |

LATE PENALTIES:

A late penalty of -5% will be applied for each day, including weekends. Papers will not be accepted after 10 days late. Requests for extensions will not be considered after the due date of an assignment.

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises. All required readings will be expected to have been read prior to the scheduled class. Additional/ suggested readings will be posted on D2L.

Journal articles can be accessed through University of Calgary Library.

To access some readings (noted below) you will be required to register for a free account with Facing History at <https://www.facinghistory.org/>

| DATE | TOPIC | READINGS |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| September 5 th 2019 | Genocide Theory I – Introduction to Genocide | UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide |
| September 12 th 2019 | Genocide Theory II – Psychology and Sociology of Genocide | Waller, <i>Confronting Evil</i> : Preface, Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2 |
| September 19 th 2019 | Prevention of Genocide | Waller, <i>Confronting Evil</i> : Chapters 3 & 4 |
| September 26 th 2019 | Intervention of Genocide | Waller, <i>Confronting Evil</i> : Chapter 5 |
| October 3 rd 2019 | Alternative Justice & Punishing Genocide | Waller, <i>Confronting Evil</i> : Chapter 6 Thomson & Nagy. (2011) Law, Power and Justice: What Legalism Fails to Address in the Functioning of Rwanda’s Gacaca Courts. <i>The International Journal of Transitional Justice</i> , 5(1), 11-30 |
| October 10 th 2019 | Canada – Indigenous Genocide | Andrew Woolford, (2009) “Ontological Destruction: Genocide and Canadian Aboriginal Peoples” <i>Genocide Studies and Prevention</i> , Volume 4 Number 1 pp 81-97 http://muse.jhu.edu.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/article/265035 Stolen Lives: The Indigenous People of Canada and the Indian Residential Schools- Section 4- The Residential School Experience and Section 6 Truth and Reconciliation (available on Facing History) |
| October 17 th 2019 | Ottoman | Totten and Parson, <i>Centuries of Genocide</i> : Chapter 4 “Crimes against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians” Chapter 4 (available on Facing History) |
| October 24 th 2019 | Holocaust | Totten and Parson, <i>Centuries of Genocide</i> : Chapter 6 Arsenault, Chris. (2019, Jan 27 th) “1 in 5 Canadian youths not sure what happened in the Holocaust, survey suggests” CBC https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/canada- |

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | holocaust-survey-remembrance-1.4994602 |
| October 31 st 2019 | Cambodia | Totten and Parson, Centuries of Genocide: Chapter 9 Power, Samantha, “A Problem from Hell”: America and the Age of Genocide: Chapter 6 (full text available through U of C library) |
| November 7 th 2019 | Bosnia | Totten and Parson, Centuries of Genocide: Chapter 14 Human Rights Watch (October 1995) The Fall of Srebrenica and the Failure of UN Peacekeeping |
| November 14 th 2019 | Reading Break- No Class | No Readings |
| November 21 st 2019 | Rwanda and the Great Lakes | Power, Samantha, “A Problem from Hell”: America and the Age of Genocide: Chapter 10 (full text available through U of C library) Totten and Parson, Centuries of Genocide: Chapter 13 |
| November 28 th 2019 | Sudan | Totten and Parson, Centuries of Genocide: Chapter 12 Additional reading will be assigned through D2L |
| December 5 th 2019 | Ongoing Genocides & Exam Review | Readings will be assigned through D2L |

CLASS PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION:

Active course participation is expected and highly recommended. While key issues within the text for each class will be highlighted, it will be expected that all readings will have been completed by each student prior to the class to allow for meaningful engagement and participation during each class.

Important information for each class will be posted on our D2L site; students should regularly check the ‘News’ section of D2L for ongoing notices.

ASSIGNMENT(S):

Detailed information regarding the assignments can be found on our D2L site.

FINAL EXAMINATION:

The Final Exam will be scheduled by the Registrar between December 9th -19th. No travel plans should be made until exam schedule is posted. No aids will be permitted.

GRADE SCALE:

The following grading scale will be used:

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| A+ (91-100) | B+ (77-79) | C+ (67-69) | D+ (55-59) |
| A (85-90) | B (73-76) | C (63-66) | D (50-54) |
| A- (80-84) | B- (70-72) | C- (60-62) | F (0-49) |

LATE PENALTIES:

A late penalty of -5% will be applied for each day, including weekends. Papers will not be accepted after 10 days late. Requests for extensions will not be considered after the due date of an assignment.

WRITING STATEMENT:

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES:

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioner for Oaths, visit ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with

Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Copyright Legislation:

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, “students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.”

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>