



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE

**Sociology 421.5: Special Topics in Deviance and Criminology (Genocide & Terrorism)
Winter 2018**

Instructor: Nestar Russell

Class Time: T/R/, 11:00am – 12:15pm

Room: EDC 280

Office Location: SS 903

E-Mail: nestar.russell@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday 12.15-1:15pm.

Course Description

In this course students are exposed to a wide variety of theories that attempt to shed light on better understanding a prominent example of genocide: the Nazi Holocaust. More specifically, this course sets out by exploring a populist explanation of the Holocaust: Daniel Goldhagen's book "Hitler's Willing Executioners." The remainder of the course compares and contrasts Goldhagen's ambitious theory with a variety of lesser well-known but more nuanced explanatory accounts of the Holocaust. These less populist theories are likely to have a variety of implications on better understanding other examples of mass violence (including other genocides and acts of terrorism).

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Obtain a basic historical overview of the Nazi Holocaust (and various theoretical frameworks which have attempted to better understand this act of genocide).
2. Gain a strong grasp of theories on seemingly incomprehensible acts of mass violence by scholars like Norbert Elias, Zygmunt Bauman, Roy Baumeister, Stanley Milgram, and others.
3. Explore the relationship between the social construction of crime and acts of mass violence.
4. Develop a critical and self-reflexive lens in relation to the study of genocide and terrorism

Required Texts: The course pack for this course is available at the bookshop.

Course Schedule

Week 1 –	Tues. Jan. 9:	<i>Introduction.</i> Reading: none.
	Thurs. Jan. 11:	<i>Overview of Goldhagen’s (1997) “Hitler’s Willing Executioners.”</i> Reading: Goldhagen, D. J. (1996). <i>Hitler’s Willing Executioners</i> (pp. 3-14; 211-222).
Week 2 –	Tues. Jan. 16:	<i>Goldhagen and Genocide—video.</i> Reading/s: none.
	Thurs. Jan. 18	<i>Elias’s Civilizing Process--part one.</i> Reading/s: Weber, M. (1946). <i>Politics as a Vocation</i> (pp. 77-79).
Week 3 –	Tues. Jan. 23:	<i>Elias’s Civilizing Process--part one (cont.).</i> Reading: Hughes, J. (1998). “Norbert Elias” Macmillan Press (pp. 168-183).
	Thurs. Jan. 25:	<i>Elias’s Civilizing Process--part two.</i> Reading: Elias, N. (1978). <i>The Civilizing Process</i> (pp. 143-160).
Week 4 –	Tues. Jan. 30:	<i>Elias’s Civilizing Process--part two (cont.).</i> Reading: Eisner, M. (2001). <i>Modernization, Self-Control and Lethal Violence: The long-term dynamics of European homicide rates in theoretical perspective</i> (pp. 618-638).
	Thurs. Feb. 1:	<i>Milgram’s Obedience to Authority Experiments--part one.</i> Reading: start reading the below material.
Week 5 –	Tues. Feb. 6:	<i>Milgram’s Obedience to Authority Experiments--part one (cont.)</i> Reading: Milgram, S. (1965). <i>Some conditions of obedience and disobedience to authority</i> (pp. 57-76).

	Thurs. Feb. 8:	<i>Ritzer's McDonaldization thesis</i> . Reading: start reading the below material.
Week 6 –	Tues. Feb. 13:	<i>Ritzer's McDonaldization thesis</i> (cont.). Reading: Ritzer, G. (1996). <i>The McDonaldization of Society</i> (pp. 9-33).
	Thurs. Feb. 15:	Short Answer Test
February 18-25		Mid-term break
Week 7 –	Tues. Feb. 27:	<i>Baumeister's thesis on 'evil' and Obedience to Authority (part two): Russell and Gregory's (2011) reinterpretation</i> . Reading: Baumeister, R. F. (1997). <i>Evil: inside human cruelty and violence</i> (pp. 16-25; 33-59).
	Thurs. March 1:	<i>Baumeister's thesis on 'evil' and Obedience to Authority (part two): Russell and Gregory's (2011) reinterpretation (cont.)</i> . Reading: Alvarez, A. (2010). <i>Genocidal Crimes</i> (pp. 100-124).
Week 8 –	Tues. March 6:	<i>Quinney, Chambliss and Reiman—Power: the Social Construction of Crime</i> . Reading: Muncie, J. (2009). <i>The construction and deconstruction of crime</i> (pp. 11-16).
	Thurs. March 8:	<i>Quinney, Chambliss and Reiman—Power: the Social Construction of Crime (cont.)</i> . Reading: Chambliss, W. J. (1975). <i>Towards a political economy of crime</i> (pp. 149-170).
Week 9 –	Tues. March 13:	<i>Obedience to Authority (part three): Bureaucracy and Technology</i> . Reading: start reading the below material.
	Thurs. March 15:	<i>Obedience to Authority (part three): Bureaucracy and Technology (cont.)</i> . Reading: Russell, N. J. C. (2011). <i>Milgram's Obedience to Authority Experiments</i> (pp. 140-162).
Week 10 –	Tues. March 20:	<i>The Holocaust: Bureaucracy, Trial and Error, and Technology</i> . Reading: start reading the below material.
	Thurs. March 22:	<i>The Holocaust: Bureaucracy, Trial and Error, and Technology (cont.)</i> . Reading: Russell, N. J. C., & Gregory, R. (2005). <i>Making the undoable doable</i> (pp. 327-349).

- Week 11 – Tues. March 27: *The Civilizing Process--part three*. Reading: Garland, D. (1990). *Punishment and Modern Society* (pp. 213-247).
- Thurs. March 29: *The Civilizing Process--part three (cont.)*. Reading: Bauman, Z. (1992). *Modernity and the Holocaust* (pp. vi-30).
- Week 12 – Tues. April 3: Essay Writing Tips
- Thurs. April 5: Short Answer Test
- Week 13 – Tues. April 10: Creativity and Academia (hand in essays).

Course Assessment

	DUE DATE	PERCENTAGE	CONTENT
First Short Answer Test	11am Thursday, 15 February.	25%	On the Obedience to Authority Experiments lectures, the compulsory reading by Milgram (1965), the McDonaldization lectures, and the compulsory reading by Ritzer (1996: 9-33).
Second Short Answer Test	11 am Thursday, 5 April	30%	On Norbert Elias's <i>Civilizing Process</i> (part one, two, three, and the compulsory reading by Hughes (1998)).
Essay	12pm Tuesday, 10 April (hand in essay at end of class)	45%	Length: 3,500 words, including references. Essay questions below.

Essay Questions:

- Ritzer (1996, p. 24) argues that the Holocaust was a precursor to what he terms "McDonaldization". Critically evaluate his argument.
- Was the Holocaust due to antiquated anti-Semitic beliefs (Goldhagen, 1997) or was it a child of modernity (Bauman, 1989)?
- In the fight against terrorism, why are armed drones increasing in popularity? Will drones make the world a safer place?
- The world was never the same after the attack on New York City's Twin Towers. Critically discuss.

- Develop your own essay question (the only stipulations are that your essay must apply some of the ideas or theoretical frameworks explored in this course and that the area of interest is directly related to the topics of genocide or terrorism). Please feel free to come and discuss your ideas with me.

Grading Scale: Percentage	Final Grade
95-100%	A+
90-94%	A
85-89%	A-
80-84%	B+
75-79%	B
70-74%	B-
67-69%	C+
63-66%	C
59-62%	C-
55-58%	D+
50-54%	D
0-49.9%	F

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Technology Use

Students are allowed to use laptop in class to take notes. It is forbidden to videotape or record lectures without the instructor's permission.

Email

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include your full name and student ID. All emails will be answered within one business day. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. If there is something you want to discuss please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. Protection of Privacy: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Ethics Research

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

Student Representation

The 2017-18 Students' Union VP Academic is Tina Miller (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Scurfield Hall - Atrium. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.