

## Course Title: Mass Violence and Genocide in 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Faculty Name:** Prof. Wolf Gruner

**Institution:** University of Southern California

**Semester Taught:** Fall 2009

Systematic mass murder of large populations is one of the main features of the 20th Century. Thus, this seminar will explore the origins, developments and forms of mass violence during this period. We will trace the history of the public discussion about Genocides and dig into the still vital debate about an appropriate definition of mass extermination. Using both primary and secondary sources we will study several cases: the mass murder of the Armenians and other Christians in Turkey during World War I, the Holocaust, and the genocides in Kampuchea and Rwanda. In contrast to common approaches, we will especially investigate the early stages of persecution to discuss the transition to mass murder. For this purpose, we will include some case studies from Africa and the Americas, where groups were fiercely discriminated against without being exterminated. Comparing these cases and others, we will discuss the factors which motivated states and groups to instigate mass murder as well as people to participate in these mass crimes.

### **Required books (at Bookstore or library):**

Donald Bloxham, *The Great Game of Genocide: Imperialism, Nationalism, and the Destruction of the Ottoman Armenians* (Paperback 2007)

Ben Kiernan, *The Pol Pot regime, Race, Power and Genocide in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge 1975-1979* (Paperback 2007).

Wolf Gruner, *Jewish Forced Labor under the Nazis: Economic Needs and Racial Aims, 1938-1944* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008 paperback)

Scott Strauss, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda* (Paperback 2006).

Etelle Higonnet, *Quiet Genocide: Guatemala 1981-1983* (Hardcover) Transaction Publishers (2008).

Nancy L. Clark and William H. Worger, *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid* (Paperback 2004).

Required articles are on Blackboard

### **Optional reading:**

Ben Kiernan, *Blood and Soil. A World History of Genocide and Extermination from Sparta to Darfur*, Paperback 2007.

Samantha Power, *"A problem from hell". America and the Age of Genocide*, Paperback 2007.

Michael Mann, *The Dark Side of Democracy, Explaining Ethnic Cleansing*, Paperback 2005.

Jacques Semelin, *Purify and Destroy. The Political Use of Massacre and Genocide*, Paperback 2007.

Dirk Moses, 'Empire, Colony, Genocide: Keywords and Intellectual History', in A. Dirk Moses, ed., *Empire Colony Genocide: Conquest, Occupation, and Subaltern Resistance in World History* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2008), 3-54.

### **Course requirements:**

**Class discussions:** Participation in class discussions about the readings is vital for the learning process. I expect that you will attend all class meetings, complete assigned reading on time, and engage actively with the material in our discussions. The breakdown of your grade is as follows: **daily attendance, 10 %; participation in class discussion, 20% = for a total of 30%.**

### **Examinations:**

One midterm exam will be given based on readings and discussions. **Midterm: 30%.**

### **Research Paper:**

You are required to write a research paper of 15-20 pages on a topic of your choice and interest whether related to the topic in general or to specific questions under consideration in this class. This paper will be grounded in the historiography of the chosen area, but the heart of the effort will involve research of primary source material available, including the rich material housed in the USC Shoah Foundation Institute or the Holocaust book collection at Doheny library. Please start early to think about a possible subject. After the mid-term you need to provide a research subject and a list of the possible literature you will use to write the paper. Feel free to discuss anything about preparing or writing the paper with me by email or during my office hours.  
**Research Paper: 40%.**

### **Schedule:**

#### **1. Tue, August 25: The Study of Mass Violence and Genocide: Introduction**

#### **2. Thu, August 27: Discussion of Terms and Interpretations**

##### ***Primary sources***

the UN Definition of Genocide and its history (Individual research online)

##### ***Secondary texts***

Mark Levene, Why is the Twentieth Century the Century of Genocide?, in: *Journal of World History*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Fall, 2000), pp. 305-336.

#### **3. Tue, Sept, 1: Settler Colonialism, Nation Building and Genocide 18-19th Century**

##### ***Secondary texts***

Patrick Wolfe, Settler colonialism and the elimination of the native, in *Journal of Genocide Research*, Vol. 8, 2006, no.4, pp. 387-410.

Norbert Finzsch, It is scarcely possible to conceive that human beings could be so hideous and loathsome. Discourses of Genocide in eighteenth-and nineteenth-

century America and Australia, in: *Colonialism and Genocide*, ed. by Dork Moses and Dan Stone, New York 2007, pp. 1-19.

Héctor Hugo Trincherro, The Genocide of Indigenous Peoples in the Formation of the Argentine Nation-State, in JGR, vol. 8, 2006, No. 2, pp. 121-137.

#### **4. Thu, Sept, 3: Settler Colonialism, Nation Building and Genocide 19th Century**

##### ***Secondary texts***

Raphael Lemkin, Tasmania, in: *Colonialism and Genocide*, ed. by Dirk Moses and Dan Stone, New York 2007, pp. 74-100.

Ben Kiernan, Genocide in the United States, in: idem, *Blood and Soil*, 2007, pp. 310-363.

#### **5. Tue, Sept, 8: 19/20th Century Colonial Genocide**

##### ***Secondary texts***

Ben Kiernan, Settler genocides in Africa 1830-1910, in: idem, *Blood and Soil*, 2007, pp. 364-390.

Bridgeman and Leslie j. Worley, Genocide of the Hereros, in: Samuel Totten and William S. Parsons, *Century of Genocide, Critical essays and Eyewitness accounts*. 2009 (orig. 1997), pp. 17-54.

Benjamin Madley, Patterns of Frontier Genocide 1803-1910. The Aboriginal Tasmanians, the Yuki of California, and the Herero of Namibia, in *Journal of Genocide Research*, Vol. 6, 2004, No. 2, pp. 167-192.

#### **6. Thu, Sept, 10: The Ottoman Empire and the Armenians, pre conditions**

##### ***Secondary texts***

Bloxham, *The Great Game of Genocide*, pp. 1-68.

#### **7. Tue, Sept, 15: The Ottoman Empire and the Armenians, War and Mass murder**

##### ***Primary sources***

Eyewitness accounts, in Totten/Parsons, *Century of Genocide*, pp. 78-88.

##### ***Secondary texts***

Bloxham, *The Great Game of Genocide*, pp. 69-111.

#### **8. Thu, Sept, 17: The Ottoman Empire and the Christians, Expulsion and Mass murder**

*Tentative watching documentary about Armenian Genocide*

##### ***Secondary texts***

Matthias Bjoernlund, The 1914 cleansing of Aegan Greeks as a case of violent Turkification, in JGR, Vol. 10, 2008, No. 1, pp. 41-58.

Bloxham, *The Great Game of Genocide*, pp. 134-169 (tentatively also 185-206 about American response).

Hervé Georgelin, Perception of the other's fate. What Greek Orthodox Refugees from the Ottoman Empire reported about the destruction of Ottoman Armenians, in JGR, vol. 10, 2008, No. 1, pp. 59-76.

## 9. Tue, Sept, 22: The Holocaust-pre conditions

### **Primary sources**

“Speech of the German delegation in Versailles 1919,”  
in Steinhardt Botwinick, *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 50-51.

### **Secondary texts**

David Engel, *The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 1-37.

Ulrich Herbert, Introduction, in idem, *National-Socialist Extermination Policies*,  
Berghahn Books 2000, pp. 1-28.

## 10. Thu, Sept, 24: Holocaust- Developments and Institutions

### **Primary sources**

“Nuremberg Laws 1935,” online

[http://www1.yadvashem.org/about\\_holocaust/documents/part1/doc32.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part1/doc32.html)

[http://www1.yadvashem.org/about\\_holocaust/documents/part1/doc33.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part1/doc33.html)

### **Secondary texts**

Gruner, “Local Initiatives, Central Coordination: German Municipal Administration and  
the Holocaust,” in Feldman/Seibel, *Networks of Persecutions*, pp. 269-294.

Gruner, Chapter 1 and 5

## 11. Tue, Sept, 29: Holocaust: War, Mass Murder and Perpetrators

*Watching in class parts of the documentary: Shoah (1985), Claude Lanzmann*

### **Primary sources**

The Heydrich order, July 2, 1941, in:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/heydrichguide.html>

“Protocol of the Wannsee Conference, January 20 1942,” (pdf on blackboard)

### **Secondary texts**

David Engel, *The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 50-61.

Christian Gerlach, German Economic interest, Occupation policy, and the murder of the  
Jews in Belorussia, in *ibid*, pp. 210-239.

Dieter Pohl, The Murder of the Jews in the General Government, in: *ibid*, pp. 83-103.

## 12. Thu, Oct. 1: Holocaust, Labor and/or Extermination

### **Secondary texts**

Gruner, *Jewish Forced Labor*, Chapter 9 and Conclusion

## 13. Tue, Oct. 6: Testimonies of the Holocaust, Rwanda, Cambodia

Visit of the USC-Shoah institute Archive.

### **Secondary texts**

David Engel, *The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 62-87.

**Due on Thursday: Independent research on denial: Armenian Genocide, Holocaust**  
(look for the main arguments and compare both cases)

## 14. Thu, Oct. 8: Holocaust- War crime Trials, Genocide, Denial

***Tentatively Visit Doheny library, Holocaust collection, War Crime trial records,***

***Primary sources***

Hermann Göring, "Testimony on Nazi Policy toward the Jews 1946,"  
in Michael R. Marrus, *The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial*, pp. 207-211.

Albert Speer, "Final Statement,"  
in Michael R. Marrus, *The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial*, pp. 224-228.

***Secondary texts***

Raphael Lemkin, Genocide, in: idem, *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*, pp. 79-95.

Raphael Lemkin: Genocide as a Crime under International Law, in: *The American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 41, No. 1 (Jan., 1947), pp. 145-151.

**15. Tue, Oct.13: Midterm assessment**

**16. Thu, Oct. 15: Mid-term exam**

based on required reading up to this date and class discussions

***Due on Tuesday: Research paper-topic (Please explain your subject and provide a preliminary list of the literature and the primary sources you will use in your paper on one page)***

**17. Tue, Oct. 20: South Africa**

***Secondary texts***

Richard Parry, "In a Sense Citizens, but Not Altogether Citizens...": Rhodes, Race, and the Ideology of Segregation at the Cape in the Late Nineteenth Century, in: *Canadian Journal of African Studies / Revue Canadienne des Études Africaines*, Vol. 17, No. 3, Special Issue: South Africa (1983), pp. 377-391

Clark/Worger, *South Africa*, pp. 3-61

**18. Thu, Oct. 22: South Africa**

***Primary sources:***

Verwoerd speech, dec. 1950, in: Clark/Worger, *South Africa*, pp 121-127.

Freedom Charter, 26 June 1955, *ibid.*, pp. 134-137.

Testimony by Dan Montsisi, 1996, in: *ibid.*, pp. 143-144.

***Secondary texts***

Clark/Worger, *South Africa*, pp.62-110.

**19. Tue, Oct. 27: The Partition of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh**

***Primary sources***

Eyewitness accounts, in Totten/Parsons, *Century of Genocide*, pp. 310-320.

***Secondary texts***

Paul Brass, "The Partition of India and Retributive Genocide in the Punjab, 1946–47: means, methods, and purposes," *Journal of Genocide Research*, Vol 5, 2003, No 1, pp 71–101.

Chapter: Genocide in Bangladesh, in: Totten/Parsons, *Century of Genocide*, pp. 297-310.

Mark Levene, The Chittagong Hill Tracts: A Case Study in the Political Economy of 'Creeping' Genocide, in *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (Apr., 1999), pp. 339-369.

**20. Thu, Oct. 29: Cambodia**

***Primary source***

8 points of Pol Pot, May 1975 (interview 1980)

***Secondary texts***

Kiernan, The Pol Pot regime, P. 1-101.

**21. Tue, Nov. 3: Cambodia**

***Secondary texts***

Kiernan, The Pol Pot regime, P. 159-250.

**22. Thu, Nov. 5: Cambodia**

***Primary sources***

Eyewitness accounts, in Totten/Parsons, *Century of Genocide*, pp. 361-372.

***Secondary texts***

Kiernan, The Pol Pot regime, P. 251-313, 386-440.

**23. Tue, Nov. 10: Guatemala**

***Secondary texts***

Higonnet, *Quiet Genocide: Guatemala*, pp. 1-17, 29-84, 127-135.

**24. Thu, Nov. 12: Rwanda**

***Secondary texts***

Strauss, *The Order of Genocide*, pp. 17-64.

Darryl Li, *Echoes of violence. Considerations on Radio and Genocide in Rwanda*, in *JGR*, vol. 6, 2004, No 1, pp. 9-28.

**25. Tue, Nov. 17: Rwanda - local, central**

*Documentary "A good man in hell" in class*

***Secondary texts***

Strauss, *The Order of Genocide*, pp. 65-121.

Luke Fletcher, *Turning interhamwe*, individual and community choices in the Rwandan Genocide, in *JGR*, vol. 9, 2007, No. 1, pp. 25-48.

**26. Thu, Nov. 19: New Examples of Genocide? Latin America**

***Secondary texts***

Nicolas Robins, *Genocide and the Great Rebellion of 1780-1782 in Peru and Upper Peru*, in: *JGR*, vol. 7, 2005, No. 3, pp. 351-376.

Daniel Feierstein, Political Violence in Argentina and its Genocidal Characteristics, in JGR, vol. 8, 2006, No. 2, pp. 149-168.

**27. Tue, Nov. 24: New Theories on Mass violence and Genocide**

*Individual Research on Classicide, democide etc.*

**Secondary texts**

Christian Gerlach, Extremely violent societies. An alternative to the concept of Genocide, in: JGR, vol. 8, 2006, No. 4, pp. 455-472.

**! 28. Thu, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving!**

**29. Tue, Dec. 1: New Theories of Mass violence and Genocide**

**Secondary texts**

Dirk Moses, Theoretical Paper: Toward a Theory of Critical Genocide Studies, in: Online Encyclopedia of Mass Violence  
([http://www.massviolence.org/Article?id\\_article=189](http://www.massviolence.org/Article?id_article=189))

**Due: Research Paper due**

**30. Thu, Dec. 3: Assessment**