This course will be focused on aspects of the human condition that have continued to exist since the dawn of time. They are war and the mass murder and genocide of peoples in various societies throughout the world. It is the interplay of politics and the constitution of societies that accounts for these three death producing actions. With this in mind the course will examine the sociological and political factors precipitating, implementing, and justifying war, mass murder, and genocide. Some specific questions that will be addressed are: How are the categories of war, mass murder, and genocide constructed?; Under what conditions do societies engage in war, mass murder, and genocide?; Who and Why do various segments of a society become victims and victimizers?; What social psychological factors are at play in justifying war, mass murder and genocide?; What role does the state play on the one hand in the development, implementation, and justification of war, mass murder, and genocide, and on the other in their prohibition, obstruction, or cessation?


There are three requirements for this course: (1) Everyone attend all class meetings (excluding sickness and family emergency issues); (2) Every student is to come to class with six questions from the readings that they must present to the class, three of which they have the written outline answers to and three that they do not have an answer for that are to be emailed to me by 20:00 Sunday; and (3) Every student must submit a final paper (10-12 double-spaced pages in length) that critically evaluates an issue(s) that emerged from the readings. The particular form for the paper will be provided in class. **The final paper will be due on December 12 1:00 PM via email** ([sanjan@berkeley.edu](mailto:sanjan@berkeley.edu)). Final grade will be determined by class participation which will account for 50% and the final paper which will account for 50%.
Course Readings

Week 8/27: Introduction to Course

Week 9/3: Academic Holiday

Week 9/10: The Origins Tyranny

   Assignment:


Week 9/17: The Consequences of Tyranny

   Assignment:


Week 9/24: The Idea of Killing in War

   Assignment:

   *The Pacific*, PBS Mini Series, Episodes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9

Week 10/1: Murder During War

   Assignment:


Week 10/8: Origins and Implementation of Mass Murder

Assignment:


Week 10/15: Social and Political Origins of Genocide

Assignment:

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler’s Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* (Random House, 1996), Parts 1, 2, 3

Week 10/22: Social and Political Origins of Genocide (Continued)

Assignment:


Week 10/29: The Implementation of Genocide

Assignment:


Week 11/5: The Implementation of Genocide (Continued)

Assignment:


Week 11/12: Academic Holiday/ State, Politics and Genocide

Assignment:


Week 11/19: Genocide and Its Aftermath

Assignment:

Ronald Grigor Suny, “They Can Live in the Desert but Nowhere Else”, Ch. 10 and Conclusion

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler’s Willing Executioners*, Ch. 15, 16, Epilog

Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers*, Ch. 8 and Conclusion

Week 11/26: Some Conclusions Concerning Mass Murder and Genocide

Assignment:


Week 12/3: Instruction Ends and Review Period Begins

December 12: PAPERS ARE DUE BY 1:00 PM Via EMAIL: sanjan@berkeley.edu