

Sociology 142  
Violence, War, and Genocide  
Syllabus  
Fall 2017

**Introduction**

This course was official listed as “War and Conflict” and we certainly will address both of these topics. However, we will be particular interested in five specific sociological areas of enquiry: (1) the origins of violent thoughts and behavior; (2) the psychological and social prerequisites for killing and murder; (3) the ante and experiential influences of behavior during War; (4) the necessary conditions for human slaughter; and (5) the social, political and psychological conditions for genocide. These are difficult subjects that carry a great deal of emotional energy with them. Our job is not to lose that emotional energy but to use it as a stimulant to analyze and understand the dynamics that precipitate and fuel these behaviors. However, we will be continually reminded that our topic involves the loss of someone’s physical or emotional life, a condition that cannot be rectified easily, or at all, and thus demands both our deference and empathy.

**Requirements for the Course**

A number of books have been order for the course. You will need to have access to them—buying, renting, or borrowing—and read each with a keen eye to the overall argument that they advanced as well as the evidentiary basis for their conclusions. There will be two in class exams and one final exam. Each will count equally toward your final grade. These exams will have two components to them: (1) multiple-choice questions; (2) short answer questions. Completion of all the exams is required. If for reasons of illness or a death to a member of the immediate family the student is not able to take the exam, then a make-up exam will be offered. For an illness, a doctor’s note telling me that it was impossible for you to perform the tasks on the exam is required. For a death in the immediate family, a note from a family member with a phone number to call for verification is required. If students do not have either of these verifications, they will not be excused and will receive an “F.”

**EXAM DATES:** September 26<sup>th</sup> for Exam # 1, October 31<sup>st</sup> for Exam # 2, and Final Exam in December will be announced.

**GRADING:** The instructor has developed all the exams for the course. In this regard, the instructor has written the questions and the answers to these questions for the Course Reader to follow. Thus, students know that there is an answer for each of these questions and this answer is consistently applied to each student on each question.

For the first two exams, there are 12 multiple-choice questions on each exam that are worth 2 points each (total of 24 points) and 5 short-answer questions on each exam that are worth 15 points each (total of 75 points) with the total from each set of questions equally 99 points and me giving you a free 1 point for any inconvenience the test may have caused you. Since the final exam has twice as much time, there will be 20 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each for a total of 40 points; and 12 short-answer questions worth 5 points each for a total of 60 points, equaling 100 points. Each exam is of equal weight, i.e. 1/3 of the final grade. For each exam, the student will be given the total points received. The formula to determine your final grade is based on adding up the scores of your three exams, dividing by three to determine your mean score, and placing that score on the following scale: A+= 100-96; A= 95-92; A-= 91-90; B+= 89-87; B= 86-83; B-= 82-80; C+= 79-77; C= 76-73; C-= 72-70; D+= 69-67; D= 66-63; D-= 62-60; F= 59-0. Finally, for those students who are taking the course on a pass/no pass basis, you must receive a C- or better on each of the exams to receive a "pass" grade. If any one of your exams falls below the C- level you will be given a "no pass" grade. This is because the Final Exam includes new material from the final third of the course (as well as material from the first two thirds) and in order for me to "officially" say that you passed all the material in the course you will need to pass each exam with 70 points (C-) or above, including the final, where there is new material.

## Readings

### Week 1:

Aug. 24: Introduction to Course

READING: Hannah Arendt, *On Violence*

### Week 2: Definitions of Conflict, Violence and Death

Aug. 29: Philip Zimbardo, *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*

Aug. 31: Philip Zimbardo, *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*

### Week 3: Psychological Origins of Violence

Sept. 5: Philip Zimbardo, *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*

Sept. 7: Philip Zimbardo, *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*

### Week 4: War Violence

Sept. 12: M. Sanchez-Jankowski, *Burning Dislike: Ethnic Violence in High Schools*

Sept. 14: M. Sanchez-Jankowski, *Burning Dislike: Ethnic Violence in High Schools*

Week 5: Social Origins of Violence

Sept. 19: M. Sanchez-Jankowski, *Burning Dislike: Ethnic Violence in High Schools*

Sept. 21: M. Sanchez-Jankowski, *Burning Dislike: Ethnic Violence in High Schools*

Week 6: Social Contagion and Violence

Sept. 26: **Exam # 1**

Start Reading: Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of WW II M.*

Sept. 28: Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of WW II M.*

Week 7: The Nature of Killing and Murder

Oct. 3: Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of WW II*

Oct. 5: Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of WW II M.*

Week 8: Exam and Transition to Next Subject

Oct. 10: *The Pacific*

Oct. 12: *The Pacific*

Week 9: Anatomy of Slaughter

Oct. 17: Dee Brown, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the West*

Oct. 19: Dee Brown, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the West*

Week 10: Experience of Slaughter

Oct. 24: Dee Brown, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the West*

Oct. 26: Dee Brown, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the West*

Week 11: Social Consequences of Slaughter

Oct. 31: **Exam # 2**

Start Reading: M. Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*

Nov 2: M. Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*

Week 12: The Idea of Genocide

Nov. 7: M. Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*

Nov. 9: M. Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*

Week 13: The Participation in Genocide

Nov. 14: Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and The Holocaust Psychological and Social Consequences of Genocide*

Nov. 16: Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and The Holocaust Psychological and Social Consequences of Genocide*

Week 14: Social Consequences of Genocide

Nov. 21: Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and The Holocaust The Historical Ramifications of Genocide*

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving

Week: 15:

Nov. 28: Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and The Holocaust*

Nov. 30: Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and The Holocaust*

**Final Exam in December will be announced**