

Sociology 142
Violence, War, and Genocide
Syllabus
Fall 2018

Introduction

This course was officially listed as “War and Conflict” and we certainly will address both of these topics. However, we will be particularly 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 ordered 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 advance 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) 5 multiple-choice questions; (2) 2 Essay-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: October 1 for Exam # 1, October 29th 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 Exam 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 5 multiple-choice questions on each exam that are worth 2 points each (total of 10 points) and 2 Essay questions on each exam that are worth 45 points each (total of 90 points). Since the final exam has twice as much time, there will be 4 Essay Questions. 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. 27: Introduction to Course

READING: Martín Sánchez-Jankowski, ***Burning Dislike: Ethnic Violence in High Schools***

Week 2, Sept. 3 (Labor Day Holiday): Psychological Origins of Violence

READING: Martín Sánchez-Jankowski, ***Burning Dislike: Ethnic Violence in High Schools***

Week 3, Sept. 5: Killing During War

VIEWING: **The Pacific** mini-series on Netflix or Amazon Prime, Episodes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9

Week 4, Sept. 17: The Psychology of Killing During War

READING: Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*

Week 5, Sept. 24: Mass Murder During War

READING: Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*

Week 6, Oct. 1: **EXAM # 1**

Exam # 1

Week 7, Oct. 8: Social Basis of Slaughter

READING: Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective*—The Introduction, Chapters 10, 13, 14, 16, 17

Week 8, Oct. 15: Anatomy of Slaughter

READING: Gellately and Kiernan, *The Specter of Genocide*
Chapters 8, 14, 16, 17

Week 9, Oct. 22: The Idea of Genocide

READING: Gellately and Kiernan, *The Specter of Genocide*, Chapters 2,3,4

Daniel Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*, Chapters 1,2,3

Week 10, Oct. 29: **EXAM # 2**

Exam #2

Week 11, Nov. 5: Social Basis of Genocidal Policy

READING: Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, Chapters 4, 5
Gellately and Kiernan, *The Spector of Genocide*, Chapters 9, 11, 15

Week 12, Nov. 12: Institutional Holiday/Participation in Genocide

READING: Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9

Week 13, Nov. 19: Means of Genocide

READING: Goldhagan, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

Week 14, Nov. 26: Social Consequences of Genocide

READING: Goldhagan, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, Chs. 15, 16, Epilogue

Gellately and Kiernan, *The Spector of Genocide*, Ch. 18

Week: 15, Dec. 3: Instruction Ends

Review Begins

TIME AND PLACE OF THE FINAL EXAM IN DECEMBER WILL BE ANNOUNCED