

# War, Mass Murder and Genocide Syllabus

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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 address 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?

All the books for the class have been ordered and can be found in the bookstore or on line. They include in alphabetical order: Giorgio Agamben, *Homo Sacre: Sovereign Power and Bare Life* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998); Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich, 1951); Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003); Daniel Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* (New York: Random House); John Keane, *Reflections on Violence*, (London: Verso 1996); Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism and Genocide in Rwanda* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012); Geoffrey P. Megarce, *War and Annihilation: Combat and Genocide on the Eastern Front, 1941* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield 2006); and Ronald Suny, *"They Can Live in the Desert, but Nowhere Else": A History of the Armenian Genocide* (Princeton University Press, 2015).

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:

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1951), Chapters 1-8.

Week 9/17: The Consequences of Tyranny

Assignment:

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Chapters 9-13

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:

Geoffrey P. Megarce, *War of Annihilation: Combat and Genocide on Eastern Front, 1941* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006)

Gavan McCormack, "Reflections on Modern Japanese History in the Context of the Concept of Genocide," in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

## Week 10/8: Origins and Implementation of Mass Murder

### Assignment:

Elazar Barkan, "Genocides of Indigenous Peoples: Rhetoric of Human Rights," in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Nicolas Werth, "The Mechanism of a Mass Crime: The Great Terror in the Soviet Union, 1937-1938," in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Leslie Dwyer and Degung Santikarma, "When the World Turned to Chaos: 1965 and Its Aftermath in Bali, Indonesia," in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Edward Kissi, "Genocide in Cambodia And Ethiopia," in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Greg Grandin, "History, Motive, Law, Intent: Combining Historical and Legal Methods in Understanding Guatemala's 1981-1983 Genocide" in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

John G. Taylor, "Encirclement and Annihilation: The Indonesian Occupation of East Timor," in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Jaques Semelin, "Analysis of a Mass Crime: Ethnic Cleansing in the Former Yugoslavia, 1991-1999," in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

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:

Ronald Grigor Suny, *"They Can Live in the Desert but No Other Place": A History of the Armenian Genocide* (Princeton University Press, 2015), Chs. 1-7.

Mhmood Mandani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and Genocide in Rwanda* (Princeton University Press, 2002), Chs. 1-6

Week 10/29: The Implementation of Genocide

Assignment:

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, Parts 3, 4, 5, 6.

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

Assignment:

Ronald Grigor Suny, *"Let Them Live in the Desert, but Nowhere Else": A History of the Armenian Genocide*, Chs. 8, 9

Mahmood Mandani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and Genocide in Rwanda* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002), Chapter, 7, 8

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

Assignment:

Giorgio Agamben, *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998)

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:

John Keane, *Reflections on Violence* (London: Verso, 1996).

Eric D. Weitz, “The Modernity of Genocides: War, Race and Revolution in The Twentieth Century,” in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Omer Bartov, “Seeking the Roots of Modern Genocide: On the Macro- and Microhistory of Mass Murder” in Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Week 12/3: Instruction Ends and Review Period Begins

December 12: PAPERS ARE DUE BY 1:00 PM Via EMAIL: [sanjan@berkeley.ed](mailto:sanjan@berkeley.ed)