

Spring 2013
International Relations 499: Comparative Genocide

Patrick James, Dornsife Dean's Professor of International Relations and
Director, Center for International Studies
Office: SOS B2B (Center for International Studies)
Telephone: 213-821-4114
patrickj@usc.edu

Office Hours: Tu, Th, 11:00-12:00

Course Description

Among all forms of human behavior, none is more harmful and tragic than genocide. The purpose of this course is to gain understanding of this scourge of humanity. As our society and others learn more about genocide, prospects for its elimination become enhanced. We also can hope to gain greater understanding of politics and society across the board, along with human nature, from a concerted study of genocide.

Work begins with an exploration of the meaning and history of genocide. We move on to the most central event in defining the study of genocide: the Holocaust. This horrendous event from the World War II era still stands as the most thoroughly documented effort to achieve group annihilation. An important legacy of the Holocaust is the UN Genocide Convention of 1948, which stayed dormant for decades but emerged as an important influence on events from the 1990s onward.

Perspectives on 20th century genocide are covered in great detail. This is followed by an investigation of the media's role in mass killing. Efforts to explain genocide are probed next. The course concludes with an assessment of the future of genocide.

The mid-term examination will take place on February 28 and have a short answer and essay format. The final examination, held on *****, also will have a short answer and essay format and is cumulative (i.e., will cover all material from the start of the semester). (The time of the final examination cannot be altered, so please do not book a flight and then request an earlier exam.) Study guides will be provided so you can prepare effectively for each respective exam. All of the material from the assigned readings and seminar discussions will be tested on the exams.

The term essay, limited to 20 double-spaced pages plus a bibliography, is due in class on May 2. The topic will be worked out with me. A one-page, double-spaced outline of your paper is due in class on April 9 or there will be a 20% penalty on the paper grade. The outline should include an overview of what the paper will accomplish. A three-page outline, along with a tentative set of references that consist of scholarly articles and

books, is due in class on April 23 or there will a 20% penalty on the paper grade. Sources other than scholarly articles and books may be used only with permission of the instructor.

This course will depend on effective participation from you. Attendance and class participation, worth 10% of your final grade, is very important and I expect everyone to read the assignments that appear for each date prior to each seminar.

Each student is required to provide themes prior to two class sessions. The instructor will go first to provide an example. These themes are put up on Blackboard two days ahead of class in order to provide starting points for discussion in the seminar.

All assignments are subject to change as noted in class, although none is expected at this time.

Be sure to back up all of your computer files. Do not turn in your only copy of any requirement.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students requesting accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 213-740-0776. Students must make their request in the stipulated period prior to an exam.

Make-up Requirements

There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Acceptable excuses, meaning medical or family emergencies and official university-related business, must be provided either in person, in writing, or by phone before an absence and in writing afterwards in order to be considered. Students who are unable to complete a requirement for legitimate reasons that do not qualify as excused under university guidelines, and who notify the instructor ahead of time, may at the instructor's discretion complete a requirement belatedly. Any requirement turned in on the day that it is due but after class meets will face a 20% penalty. Each additional late day will mean an additional 20% deduction.

Please be aware, when you book your flights for the end of semester break, that it is not acceptable to depart until after the final examination.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct. In order to insure an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all: No cell phone calls, incoming or outgoing, are allowed in this class; please turn off your cell phone. Texting or using your computer for anything but class-related purposes also is not permitted.

It is not permitted to come to class late. Late arrivals disrupt the class and distract both the instructor and students who have come on time. After the first week of class, the door to the room will be closed and no one will be permitted to enter after class begins. A sign will be posted on the door as a reminder.

Policy on Academic Ethics and Honesty

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult your instructor. For more information on USC policies regarding student integrity and plagiarism, see <http://dornsife.usc.edu/usc-policies/#plagiarism>.

Required Reading

Please buy these books. Previous editions of the books are not acceptable as substitutes. These are available at the bookstore: Other required reading will be placed on Blackboard.

Armoudian, Maria. 2011. *Kill the Messenger: The Media's Role in the Fate of the World*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.

Engel, David. 1999. *The Third Reich and the Jews (Seminar Studies in History)*. New York, NY: Longman.

Jones, Adam. 2010. *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction*. 2nd ed. NY: Routledge.

Midlarsky, Manus I. 2005. *The Killing Trap: Genocide in the Twentieth Century*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Naimark, Norman M. 2001. *Fires of Hatred: Ethnic Cleansing in Twentieth-Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Course Requirements

Mid-term Examination (February 28)	20%
Final Examination (*)	30%
Term Essay (due May 2, one-page outline due on April 9 and three-page outline due on April 23)	30%
Attendance and Class Participation	10%
Themes (two turns, per student, in providing these ahead of the seminar)	10%

Schedule

January	15	Introduction
	17	The Meaning of Genocide Jones, ch. 1
	22	Genocide in History, I Jones, ch. 2
	24	Genocide in History, II Jones, ch. 3
	29	The Holocaust, I Jones, ch. 6
	31	The Holocaust, II Botwinick
February	5	The Holocaust, III

Botwinick

- 7 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, I
Jones, chs. 4-5
- 12 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, II
Jones, chs. 7-9
- 14 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, III
Naimark, Introduction and chs. 1-2
- 19 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, IV
Naimark, chs. 3-4
- 21 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, V
Naimark, ch. 5 and Conclusion
- 26 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, VI
Valentino
- 28 Mid-term Examination

March

- 5 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, VII
Midlarsky, Introduction and chs. 1-2
- 7 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, VIII
Midlarsky, chs. 3-5
- 12 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, IX
Midlarsky, chs. 6-9
- 14 Perspectives on 20th Century Genocide, X
Midlarsky, chs. 10-13
- 19, 21 Class Cancelled: Spring Recess

	26	Perspectives on 20 th Century Genocide, XI Midlarsky, chs. 14-18
	28	The Role of the Media, I Armoudian, Introduction and chs. 1-5
April	2	Paper Proposal Working Session
	4	The Role of the Media, II Armoudian, chs. 6-9
	9	The Role of the Media, III Armoudian, chs. 10-13 <u>Note:</u> first stage of the outline of the term essay is due in class today
	11	Explaining Genocide, I Harff and Gurr; Fein; Jones, chs. 10-11
	16	Explaining Genocide, II Jones, ch. 12
	18	Explaining Genocide, III Jones, ch. 13
	23	The Future of Genocide, I Jones, chs. 14-15 <u>Note:</u> second stage of outline of the term essay is due in class today
	25	The Future of Genocide, II de Waal and Prendergast; Jones, ch.16 <u>Note:</u> study guide provided for final examination

	30	The Future of Genocide, III Kuperman
May	2	Review <u>Note:</u> Term Essay Due in Class