Systematic mass murder of large populations is one of the main features of the 20th Century. Thus, this seminar will explore the origins, developments and forms of mass violence during this period. We will trace the history of the public discussion about Genocides and dig into the still vital debate about an appropriate definition of mass extermination. Using both primary and secondary sources we will study several cases: the mass murder of the Armenians and other Christians in Turkey during World War I, the Holocaust, and the genocides in Kampuchea and Ruanda. In contrast to common approaches, we will especially investigate the early stages of persecution to discuss the transition to mass murder. For this purpose, we will include some case studies from Africa and the Americas, where groups were fiercely discriminated against without being exterminated. Comparing these cases and others, we will discuss the factors which motivated states and groups to instigate mass murder as well as people to participate in these mass crimes.

**Required books (at Bookstore or library)**


**Required articles** are on **Blackboard**

**Optional reading**


**Course requirements:**

**Class discussions:** Participation in class discussions about the readings is vital for the learning process. I expect that you will attend all class meetings, complete assigned reading on time, and engage actively with the material in our discussions. The breakdown of your grade is as follows: **daily attendance, 10 %; participation in class discussion, 20% = for a total of 30%**.

**Examinations:**
One midterm exam will be given based on readings and discussions. **Midterm: 30%**.

**Research Paper:**
You are required to write a research paper of 15-20 pages on a topic of your choice and interest whether related to the topic in general or to specific questions under consideration in this class. This paper will be grounded in the historiography of the chosen area, but the heart of the effort will involve research of primary source material available, including the rich material housed in the USC Shoah Foundation Institute or the Holocaust book collection at Doheny library. Please start early to think about a possible subject. After the mid-term you need to provide a research subject and a list of the possible literature you will use to write the paper. Feel free to discuss anything about preparing or writing the paper with me by email or during my office hours. **Research Paper: 40%**.

**Academic Integrity**
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these
principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Schedule:


2. Thu, August 27: Discussion of Terms and Interpretations

   Primary sources
   the UN Definition of Genocide and its history (Individual research online)

   Secondary texts

3. Tues, Sept, 1: Settler Colonialism, Nation Building and Genocide 18-19th Century

   Secondary texts
   Norbert Finzsch, It is scarcely possible to conceive that human beings could be so hideous and loathsome. Discourses of Genocide in eighteenth-and nineteenth-century America and Australia, in: Colonialism and Genocide, ed. by Dork Moses and Dan Stone, New York 2007, pp. 1-19.

4. Thu, Sept, 3: Settler Colonialism, Nation Building and Genocide 19th Century

   Secondary texts

5. Tue, Sept, 8: 19/20th Century Colonial Genocide

Secondary texts

6. Thu, Sept, 10: The Ottoman Empire and the Armenians, pre conditions

Secondary texts
Bloxham, The Great Game of Genocide, pp. 1-68.

7. Tue, Sept, 15: The Ottoman Empire and the Armenians, War and Mass murder

Primary sources
Eyewitness accounts, in Totten/Parsons, Century of Genocide, pp. 78-88.
Secondary texts
Bloxham, The Great Game of Genocide, pp. 69-111.

8. Thu, Sept, 17: The Ottoman Empire and the Christians, Expulsion and Mass murder

Tentative watching documentary about Armenian Genocide

Secondary texts
Hervé Georgelin, Perception of the other’s fate. What Greek Orthodox Refugees from the Ottoman Empire reported about the destruction of Ottoman Armenians, in JGR, Vol. 10, 2008, No. 1, pp. 59-76.

9. Tue, Sept, 22: The Holocaust-pre conditions

Primary sources
Secondary texts
10. Thu, Sept, 24: Holocaust- Developments and Institutions

*Primary sources*
“Nuremberg Laws 1935,” online
http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part1/doc32.html
http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part1/doc33.html

*Secondary texts*
Gruner, Chapter 1 and 5

11. Tue, Sept, 29: Holocaust: War, Mass Murder and Perpetrators
Watching in class parts of the documentary: Shoah (1985), Claude Lanzmann

*Primary sources*
The Heydrich order, July 2, 1941, in:
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/heydrichguide.html
“Protocol of the Wannsee Conference, January 20 1942,” (pdf on blackboard)

*Secondary texts*
Christian Gerlach, German Economic interest, Occupation policy, and the murder of the Jews in Belorussia, in ibid, pp. 210-239.

12. Thu, Oct. 1: Holocaust, Labor and/or Extermination

*Secondary texts*
Gruner, Jewish Forced Labor, Chapter 9 and Conclusion

13. Tue, Oct. 6: Testimonies of the Holocaust, Rwanda, Cambodia
Visit of the USC-Shoah institute Archive.

*Secondary texts*

Due on Thursday: Independent research on denial: Armenian Genocide, Holocaust (look for the main arguments and compare both cases)

14. Thu, Oct. 8: Holocaust- War crime Trials, Genocide, Denial
*Tentatively Visit Doheny library, Holocaust collection, War Crime trial records,*

*Primary sources*

**Secondary texts**
Raphael Lemkin, Genocide, in: idem, Axis Rule in Occupied Europe, pp. 79-95.

15. Tue, Oct. 13: Midterm assessment

16. Thu, Oct. 15: Mid-term exam
based on required reading up to this date and class discussions

*Due on Tuesday: Research paper-topic (Please explain your subject and provide a preliminary list of the literature and the primary sources you will use in your paper on one page)*

17. Tue, Oct. 20: South Africa

**Secondary texts**
Clark/Worger, South Africa, pp. 3-61

18. Thu, Oct. 22: South Africa

**Primary sources:**

**Secondary texts**
Clark/Worger, South Africa, pp. 62-110.

19. Tue, Oct. 27: The Partition of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh

**Primary sources**
Eyewitness accounts, in Totten/Parsons, Century of Genocide, pp. 310-320.

**Secondary texts**

20. Thu, Oct. 29: Cambodia

*Primary source*
8 points of Pol Pot, May 1975 (interview 1980)

*Secondary texts*

21. Tue, Nov. 3: Cambodia

*Secondary texts*
Kiernan, The Pol Pot regime, P. 159-250.

22. Thu, Nov. 5: Cambodia

*Primary sources*
Eyewitness accounts, in Totten/Parsons, Century of Genocide, pp. 361-372.

*Secondary texts*

23. Tue, Nov. 10: Guatemala

*Secondary texts*
Higonnet, Quiet Genocide: Guatemala, pp. 1-17, 29-84, 127-135.

24. Thu, Nov. 12: Rwanda

*Secondary texts*
Strauss, The Order of Genocide, pp. 17-64.

25. Tue, Nov. 17: Rwanda - local, central

*Documentary “A good man in hell” in class*

*Secondary texts*
Strauss, The Order of Genocide, pp. 65-121.

Secondary texts
Nicolas Robins, Genocide and the Great Rebellion of 1780-1782 in Peru and Upper Peru,

27. Tue, Nov. 24: New Theories on Mass violence and Genocide

    Individual Research on Classicide, democide etc.

Secondary texts
Christian Gerlach, Extremely violent societies. An alternative to the concept of Genocide,

! 28. Thu, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving !


Secondary texts

Due: Research Paper due
30. Thu, Dec. 3: Assessment