Tentative syllabus

HIST 444
Mass Violence and Comparative Genocide in Modern World History
Fall 2014

Prof. Wolf Gruner
Email: gruner@usc.edu
Phone: (213) 740-1668
Office: SOS 262
Office hours: 12.45-1.45pm & by app’t

Time: Tues/Thu 2:00-3:20pm
Room: MRF 206
Class #: 37134R

Systematic mass murder of large populations is one of the main features of Modern world history. Thus, this seminar will methodically explore and compare the origins, developments and forms of mass violence and genocide, focusing especially on the dark 20th century. Using both primary and secondary sources we will start with the study of the mass murder of indigenous people in different parts of the world from the 16th until the early 20th century (Colonial genocides form the Spanish conquest of the Americas until the massacres of the Herero in South West Africa by the Germans). The main focus lies on the exploration of the genocide of Armenians and other Christians in Turkey during World War I, the Holocaust against the Jews and the genocides in Cambodia and Ruanda. For comparative reasons the genocides following the partition of India and Pakistan as well as in Bangladesh and Guatemala are included. In contrast to common approaches, we will especially investigate the preconditions and early stages of persecution to discuss the transition to mass murder. For this purpose, we will also discuss case studies from Africa and the Americas, where groups were fiercely discriminated against without being exterminated. Analyzing these cases and others, we will compare the factors which motivated states and groups throughout history to instigate mass murder as well as people to participate in these mass crimes. 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.

Required Reading:


**Required articles and book chapters** are posted on **Blackboard**

**Additional Optional Reading:**


**Course Requirements:**

**Class attendance and 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. If you will miss class, you have to inform me as soon as possible via email. In cases of illness you have to provide me with a certificate by the USC Health office. Unexcused absences lower your grade. If you miss more than 5 classes, I won’t accept a research paper, which will significantly lower the grade. The breakdown of your grade is as follows: **daily attendance, 10 %; active participation in class discussions, 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. At some point I ask you to provide a short description of a possible research subject and a list of the potential literature you identified 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/](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/](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:

Week 1
1. Tue, Aug 26: The Study of Mass Violence in World History: Introduction

2. Thu, Aug 28: Discussion of Terms and Interpretations

   Primary sources
   Raphael Lemkin, Genocide, in: idem, Axis Rule in Occupied Europe, pp. 79-95.
   The UN Definition of Genocide and its history (please do individual research online)

   Secondary texts

Week 2
3. Tue, Sep 2: Colonialism 16-18th 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, Sep 4: Colonialism and Nation Building 19th Century

   Secondary texts

Week 3
5. Tue, Sep 9: Sources: Introduction Holocaust and Genocide studies collection at Doheny
   Attention different location!! Doheny Library Basement
6. Thu, Sep 11: The Ottoman Empire and the Armenians- Pre-conditions

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

Week 4
7. Tue, Sep 16: 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, Sep 18: The Ottoman Empire and the Armenians- Expulsion and Mass murder
watching in class part of a documentary about the 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.

Week 5
9. Tue, Sep. 23: Tentative Fredy Perecelli (Guatemala, FAFG) visit

The Case of Guatemala
Secondary texts
Quiet Genocide: Guatemala, pp. 1-17, 29-84, 127-135.

10. Thu, Sep 25: The Holocaust- the Pre-conditions

Primary sources
“Speech of the German delegation in Versailles 1919,”
in Steinhardt Botwinick, A Holocaust Reader, pp. 50-51.

Secondary texts
Week 6

11. Tue, Sept 30. The 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, Jewish Forced Labor, Chapter 1 and 5

12. Thu Oct 2. The Holocaust- War, Mass Murder and Perpetrators

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 Herbert, National-Socialist Extermination Policies, pp. 210-239.

Week 7

13. Tue, Oct 7: Holocaust, Labor and/or Extermination
Watching in class parts of the documentary: Shoah (1985), Claude Lanzmann

Secondary texts
Gruner, Jewish Forced Labor, Chapter 9 and Conclusion
Goldhagen, “Jewish ‘Work’ is Annihilation,” in idem, Hitler’s Willing Executioners, pp. 283-326

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

14. Thu, Oct 9 Midterm assessment

Week 8

15. Tue, Oct 14: Midterm exam
based on required reading up to this date and class discussions
Due on Tuesday in class: hard copy 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) plus electronic copy via email

16. Thu, Oct 16: South Africa
   Secondary texts
   Clark/Worger, South Africa, pp. 3-61

Week 9
17. Tue, Oct 21: South Africa

   Primary sources:
   Secondary texts
   Clark/Worger, South Africa, pp.62-110.

18. Thu, Oct 23: The Partition of India

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

Week 10
19. Tue, Oct. 28: The cases of Pakistan and Bangladesh

   Secondary texts
   Chapter: Genocide in Bangladesh, in: Totten/Parsons, Century of Genocide, pp. 297-310.
20. Thu, Oct 30: Sources: Introduction Archive of Testimonies from the Holocaust, Rwanda, Cambodia, the Shanghai massacres.

Attention different location Introduction: USC-Shoah Foundation Archive at Leavey Library.

Week 11
21. Tue, Nov 4: Cambodia- pre history
   Primary source
   8 points of Pol Pot, May 1975 (interview 1980)
   Secondary texts

22. Thu, Nov 6: Cambodia-the early period
   Secondary texts
   Kiernan, The Pol Pot regime, P. 159-250.

Week 12
23. Tue, Nov 11: Cambodia-the killing phase
   Primary sources
   Eyewitness accounts, in Totten/Parsons, Century of Genocide, pp. 361-372.
   Secondary texts
   Kiernan, The Pol Pot regime, P. 251-313, 3

24. Thu, Nov 13: Rwanda – pre-history and main events
   Secondary texts
   Strauss, The Order of Genocide, pp. 17-64.

Week 13
Due on Tue in class, hard copy two page outline of your research paper plus list of primary and secondary sources, also electronic copy via email

25. Tue, Nov 18: Rwanda - local, central
   Documentary 12 min. “A good man in hell” in class
   Secondary texts
   Strauss, The Order of Genocide, pp. 65-121.


*Secondary texts*

Week 14

*Individual Online Research on Classicide, democide, politicide etc. for Tuesday*

27. Tue, Nov 25: New Theories and Approaches

*Secondary texts*

28. Thu, Nov 27 Thanksgiving

Week 15

29. Tue, Dec 2: New Critical Approaches
   Plus short presentations of individual research results

*Secondary texts*

*Research Paper due on Thursday, last day of class*

30. Thu, Dec 4: Assessment of the class, feedback etc.