

GENOCIDE: SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS

Summer Term 2019

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Lecture: Tues. & Thurs. 6:30-9:30 p.m.
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Contents

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Materials and Texts	3
Class Format.....	3
Course Evaluation – Overview	4
Course Evaluation – Details	4
Workshop Contributions (10%), in-class, regularly.	4
Mid-Term (20%), written In-Class on Tuesday, July 9th	4
Research Essay (30%), due Sunday, July 21 st via Avenue	4
Reflection Paper (10%), due Sunday August 4 th via Avenue.....	4
Final Exam (30%), written in-class on Thursday, August 8 th	4
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings	5
Week 1 (June 24 - 30)	5
Week 2 (July 1 - 7).....	5
Week 3 (July 8 - 14).....	5
Week 4 (July 15 - 21).....	6
Week 5 (July 22 - 28).....	6
Week 6 (July 29 – August 4).....	6
Week 7 (August 5 - 11).....	7
Course Policies	8
Submission of Assignments.....	8
Grades.....	8
Late Assignments	8
Absences, Missed Work, Illness (MSAF, etc.)	8
Avenue to Learn	10

Turnitin.com	10
SAS Notetaking	10
University Policies	11
Academic Integrity Statement.....	11
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.....	11
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy	11
Course Modification	11

Course Description

This course examines genocide and mass atrocity crimes from an interdisciplinary perspective in order to investigate the causes and consequences of mass violence. By studying a wide selection of historical cases, we will trace how modern political ideologies, social institutions, scientific theories and cultural representations have created conditions the commission of atrocity crimes. We will also study how issues of race, class, gender, and indigeneity have factored into dehumanization and violence. A focus on these cases will help us to critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of contending definitions of 'genocide', and to evaluate the current international toolkit of responses to mass atrocity crimes.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Distinguish and interrelate the concepts of 'crimes against humanity', 'genocide', 'ethnic cleansing', and 'war crimes' as applied to particular cases.
- Explain the social and political factors that shaped historical cases of mass atrocity crimes.
- Develop informed arguments about the relationship between mass atrocity crimes and contemporary social institutions, especially the modern nation-state.
- Identify social, cultural, and political trends associated with mass violence, including demonization, exclusion, dehumanization, and gender-based oppression.
- Articulate insights concerning individual and collective responsibility regarding atrocities.
- Generate recommendations about the proper role of the international community in responding to crimes against humanity, in terms of prevention, intervention, and post-conflict justice.

Required Materials and Texts

- Adam Jones (2017). *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction*. 3rd Ed. New York: Routledge Press.
- All other online resources available digitally, free of charge, via Avenue (A2L).

Class Format

This course is designed as a lecture and active-learning discussion course with group work components. Regular attendance and peer engagement is an expected part of the student experience. Where appropriate, accommodations will be provided to facilitate and support peer engagement. For pedagogical and practical reasons, audio-visual slides will not typically be posted online. Suggested strategies for notetaking, and the role of notetaking in accommodating peers, will be discussed in class.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Workshop Contributions (10%)
2. Mid-Term Test (20%)
3. Research Essay (30%)
4. Reflection Paper (10%)
5. Final Exam (30%)

Course Evaluation – Details

Workshop Contributions (10%), in-class, regularly.

This course is an active-learning course, featuring an interactive classroom environment and frequent opportunities for collaboration and small-group peer discussion. Students will be organized into ‘focus teams’ tracing particular issues and themes across the course. These teams will meet frequently during class time, operating as a sort of ‘book club’ for academic articles related to a shared theme. Typically once per week you will be asked to identify an academic article, in advance of class, worth discussing with your group, and compose a brief research note. You will then be asked to attend class and participate with your group members. The culmination of this interactive course component will take place on the second-to-last class session, where groups will intermix and share insights. This component will be graded by the instructor with help from peer feedback (see below).

Mid-Term (20%), written In-Class on Tuesday, July 9th

The mid-term test will consist of multiple-choice and/or short answer elements. The content of the test will focus on background knowledge, definitions, and other foundational elements from the first few weeks of the course.

Research Essay (30%), due Sunday, July 21st via Avenue

An independent research essay of 12-14 pages will focus on an issue of your choice. Details and guidance will be provided in class.

Reflection Paper (10%), due Sunday August 4th via Avenue

An individual reflection paper will be due as the collaborative workshop element of our course wraps up. This reflection paper will provide a chance for discussion of key insights from your group’s explorations, thoughtful evaluation of the dynamics of the course’s collaborative component, and other relevant topics. The reflection will also involve an opportunity for peer assessment, which will assist with workshop contributions.

Final Exam (30%), written in-class on Thursday, August 8th

The final exam will be a written-answer exam focusing on issues and cases from throughout the course materials. It will be hosted in the Kenneth Taylor Hall B121 and

B123 basement computer labs in order to allow students to type or hand-write. No internet connection, aids, or resources will be available during the exam.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (June 24 - 30)

June 25 – Course Introduction

Readings: Jones, Chapter 1 (Part 1)

Notes: First class session.

June 27 – Atrocities Against Indigenous Peoples

Readings: Jones, Chapter 1 (Part 2); Jones Chapter 3; Canadian Commission and Inquiry Reports (on Avenue): 'Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future' (Reconciliation Commission) and 'Analysis of Genocide' (MMIW Inquiry).

Notes: Please find an article and share research note #1 with your 'focus team' before class, or in class if you can't yet share online. This should be a very brief summary and discussion (i.e. approximately 1 page) of an academic article or book chapter of your choice connecting your team's theme with the topic of 'indigenous peoples'.

Week 2 (July 1 - 7)

July 2 – The Ottoman Empire and War

Readings: Jones, Chapters 2 and 4.

Notes: In-class activity.

July 4 – The Holocaust

Readings: Jones, Chapter 6.

Notes: Please find an article and compose and share research note #2 with your focus team before class.

Week 3 (July 8 - 14)

July 9 – Review

Readings: None (Review)

Notes: The mid-term test will be written in-class in our normal room. Missed mid-term tests will be written in class on Thursday, July 18th in lieu of the essay workshop.

July 11 – Communism, Collectivization and the Cold War

Readings: Jones, Chapter 5.

Notes: Please compose and share research note #3 with your team before class.

Week 4 (July 15 - 21)

July 16 – Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge

Readings: Jones, Chapters 7 & 11

July 18 – South Africa and Apartheid

Readings: Jones, “Apartheid”. In Crimes Against Humanity. (Avenue)

Notes: Research note #4 due. A peer-support workshop on essay-writing and peer research discussion will be held after the focus team meetings. The essay is due on the weekend following this session. (See the details under ‘Course Evaluation - Details’.) Make-up mid-term tests will also be written on this evening.

Week 5 (July 22 - 28)

July 23 – Memory, Forgetting, and Denial

Readings: Jones, Chapter 14

Notes: Overdue essays welcome with a small late penalty but with no shame or stigma. (See ‘Late Assignments’)

July 25 – The Former Yugoslavia: Bosnia and Kosovo

Readings: Jones, Chapters 8 & 10

Notes: Please compose and share research note #5 with your team before class.

Week 6 (July 29 – August 4)

July 30 – The Rwandan Genocide

Readings: Jones, Chapters 9 & 13

Notes: Consider beginning your reflection paper before this session.

August 1 – Darfur and the Responsibility to Protect

Readings: Jones, Chapter 16; Markusen, (2009), “Three Empirical Investigations of Alleged Genocide in Darfur.” In Amanda Grzyb, ed., *The World and Darfur*. McGill-Queens University Press, pp 95-111. (Avenue.)

Notes: Please compose and share research note #6 with your team before class. The reflection paper assignment will be due on the weekend following this session. (See the details under ‘Course Evaluation - Details’.)

Week 7 (August 5 - 11)

August 6 – Contemporary Cases and the Promise of ‘Never Again’

Readings: Jones, Chapter 15; Chandler Article (2003). “Rhetoric Without Responsibility: The Attraction of ‘Ethical’ Foreign Policy,” *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 5, no. 3, 295-316. (Avenue.)

Notes: A group work exchange will be held during class as the culmination of our focus team workshops, and as a form of collaborative exam review. Attendance and participation will be important to pay off our hard work and enable thoughtful review in advance of the exam.

August 8 – Final Exam

Readings: None (Review)

Notes: The final exam will be held in KTH B121 & KTH B123. (See the details under ‘Course Evaluation - Details’.)

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Assignments will be submitted via assignment folders on Avenue to Learn (A2L). Please include a) your last name and b) a title in the file name when submitting.

The preferred citation style for this course is the American Psychological Association (APA) style of in-text citations. The Chicago or Chicago-Turabian styles are also acceptable if you wish. For basics on these styles, see the [Research Help Section](#) of the McMaster University Library.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE	SCALE
90-100	A+	12
85-90	A	11
80-84	A-	10
77-79	B+	9
73-76	B	8
70-72	B-	7
67-69	C+	6
63-66	C	5
60-62	C-	4
57-59	D+	3
53-56	D	2
50-52	D-	1
0-49	F	0

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be subject to a late penalty at a rate of 3% of the assignment mark per calendar day (including weekends). However, late assignments will be accepted, with no shame or stigma, for a period of fourteen days after the assignment due date.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness (MSAF, etc.)

The McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): The MSAF is an on-line self-reporting tool for reporting missed academic work. The MSAF gives you the ability to request consideration for missed work (worth less than 25% of the final grade) due to illness, injury or personal issues lasting 3 days or less. You must use the tool on MOSAIC to report your absence. This form should be filled out as soon as possible after your absence. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately (within 48 hours of submitting the MSAF) in person or by email regarding the nature of the relief that may be possible for the missed work. Whether consideration is given for missed work, and the type of consideration provide, is the decision of the instructor.

MSAF Limitations: You may submit only 1 MSAF per term without supporting documentation. An MSAF cannot be used for any final examination.

Longer or Successive Absences: For absences longer than 3 days, or for missed work worth 25% or more of the course grade, you must visit your faculty office (e.g. the Faculty of Social Sciences office) to speak to staff about your absence. You will be required to provide appropriate supporting documentation to the Faculty office before an MSAF exception link will be approved. Depending on the circumstances you may also be encouraged to meet with an academic advisor.

MSAF Privacy: You must not submit any medical or other relevant documentation to your instructor. Your instructor may not ask you for such documentation. You are not required to share the details of your medical or personal situation with any instructor.

MSAF Responsibilities: The purpose of the MSAF is to provide students who miss academic work because of illness, injury, or serious personal issues with the ability to still fulfill the requirements of the course. However, the MSAF is not intended as a time or workload management tool. As a student you are responsible for using the MSAF tool as it was intended, and to not misuse or abuse it for other reasons. Avoid problems by starting assignments and studying as early as possible.

MSAF Follow-Up E-Mail: In this course, in order to arrange for MSAF accommodation, you must e-mail the instructor as soon as possible after submitting your MSAF form. Your message to the instructor should include the following information:

1. If the missed work was an assignment, please explain the work that you had completed before your absence and any work you have completed following your absence.
2. Your student number, McMaster email address, tutorial number (if applicable), and TA's name (if applicable).

Submitting Missed Work: Remedies for missed work will vary.

- When you use the MSAF for a period when a written assignment is due, you will typically be given a three-day amnesty period from late marks.
- When you use the MSAF for a period when a test took place, the test will typically be rescheduled for an alternate time.
- For non-MSAF situations, please consult the instructor to discuss an appropriate remedy.
- **Important Note:** In this class, remedies will not typically drop missed work, nor re-weight assignments. Accommodations will be made so that missed work can be completed at the student's earliest possible convenience.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

SAS Notetaking

The office of Student Accessibility Services has issued a call for volunteer notetakers for this class. By volunteering to contribute notes to the notetaking programs, you will help support your fellow students who might need accommodation-related support. Please consider joining as a volunteer notetaker by visiting the [SAS website](#).

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable

notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.