

INTL 4780: Genocides of the Modern Era
Fall 2009

T/TH 3:30-4:45; Caldwell 203

Instructor: Dr. Stacey Mitchell (gs12smg@uga.edu)

Office Hours: **T/TH 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm**

Office: Candler 318

Welcome to INTL 4780—Genocides of the Modern Era. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the crime of genocide, what it entails, who perpetrates it and why. We will be addressing a number of questions/issues pertaining to the crime of genocide, including but not limited to the following: (1). what is the legal definition of genocide? What problems are associated with this definition and how has the definition evolved over time? (2). what leads state actors to commit genocide? Are there any particular conditions that are especially conducive to genocide? (3). why do ordinary citizens elect to participate in mass murder? Can anyone become a *génocidaire*? What role does culture play? (4). what is genocide denial? How is it created and why does it persist over time? In this course we will address these questions as they relate specifically to genocides perpetrated in the 20th century, including the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide and the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi and moderate Hutu in Rwanda.

Grading and Course Requirements

Grading in this course will be based upon these components:

- Participation: 30%;
- Mid-term examination: 30%
- Final exam: 40%

Grades will be scaled as follows:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 59% and below

Exams

The mid-term exam will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and 1 essay question. The final exam will consist of two essays questions. The final exam **will be comprehensive.**

Participation

Participation in class discussion factors heavily into determining your final grade. Students will be expected to have read the course materials assigned for each class period and be ready to answer questions regarding same. You will be graded on the **quality, not just the quantity** of your contributions. Remember, your participation in class discussion indicates to me whether or not you have read the assigned material.

Required Readings

The following textbooks are required for this course and are available at the UGA bookstore:

- Totten, Samuel, William S. Parsons and Israel W. Charny (eds.), 2008. *Century of Genocide: Critical Essays and Eyewitness Accounts*, 3rd ed., New York; London: Routledge.

All other reading assignments are available through the UGA Library's electronic reserve system. To access the system go to <http://www.libs.uga.edu>, hit "search course reserves"; under "instructor" scroll down to "Mitchell"; under "course" scroll to "INTL 4780: Genocides of the Modern Era." A password is required. The password for this course is "mitc4780."

Ground Rules

First and most importantly, this course will require a great deal of reading and analysis, as well as substantial participation in class. If you are not prepared to work hard, this may not be the course for you.

Your remaining in this course will be understood to be an acceptance of the following ground rules:

- Please **turn off all cell phones** before you come to class.
- If you miss a class, and therefore miss an attendance grade, **your absence will only be excused with official documentation**: I accept doctor's notes, copies of court subpoenas, jury subpoenas and other official court documentation, as well as funeral notices and notices for school-sponsored events. Any documentation you present to me must be presented in a **timely** manner and **must include** the date or dates you missed class—otherwise your absence will not be excused.
 - I **do not accept** as a valid excuse the following: weddings, vacations, birthdays, other family events including births (unless of course it is you who is giving birth) and missing class because you have to work on something for another class or you have to take an entrance exam for grad school, law school, med school or bartending school.
 - More than 3 unexcused absences will be taken by me as a sign that a student has a lack of interest in the course and will count negatively against that student's final average.
 - **If you miss an exam without a valid excuse no makeup test will be given. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Unless I tell you otherwise, please have all readings completed on the dates for which they are assigned.
- In terms of your final grade, **I DO NOT NEGOTIATE**. I will explain your grade to you. I will not change your final grade.

Block One: Genocide—Basic Definition and Legal Framework (August 18-September 1)

- Aug 18: Introduction to the course
- Aug. 20: Documentary, *The Genocide Factor*, (2001)
- Aug 25-Sep 1: Chalk and Jonassohn, "Introduction," 3-53

Block Two: Theories of Genocide (September 3-22)

- **Sep 3-8: Structural Theories of Genocide**
 - Sept 3: Mazian, "A Collective Behavior Approach to the Analysis of Genocide," 239-255
 - Sep 8: Melson, "Revolution and Genocide" 80-102

Harff, "The Etiology of Genocides," pp. 41-59.

- **Sep 10-15: Democratization, Institutional Collapse and Genocide**
 - Sept 10: Young, "The Heart of the African Conflict Zone," 301-328
 - Sept 15: Jones, "The Arusha Peace Process" 131-156
- **Sep 17-22: Human Nature and Genocide**
 - Sep 17: Goldhagen, "Eliminationist anti-Semitism" 80-128
 - Sep 22: Charny, "Normal Man as Genocider," pp. 9-28

Block Three: Genocide Denial (September 24-29)

- Sep 24: Acar and Ruma, "External Pressure and Turkish Discourse" 449-465
- Sep 29: Holocaust Denial: Lipstadt, "Denying the Holocaust" 1-39
- **REVIEW FOR MIDTERM: October 1, 2009**
- **MIDTERM: October 6, 2009**
- October 8: Film, *Night and Fog* (1955), 32 minutes.

Block Four: Case Studies of Genocide (October 13-December 1)

- **Oct 13-15: The Forgotten Genocides**
 - Oct 13: Genocide of the Hereros: Totten et al., chapter 1
 - Oct 15: Genocide in the Ukraine: Totten et al., chapter 3
- **Oct 20-27: The Lesser-Known Genocides**
 - Oct 20: Genocide in Bangladesh, Totten et al., chapter 9
 - Oct 22-27: Genocide in Indonesia: Totten et al., chapter 7
Genocide in East Timor: Totten et al., chapter 8
- **Oct 29-Dec 1: The Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, and the genocide in Sudan**
 - Oct 29: Documentary, *Voices from the Lake* (2000)
 - Nov 3: The Armenian Genocide: Totten et al., chapter 2
 - Nov 5: The Holocaust: Totten et al., chapters 4-5
 - Nov 10-17: Film, *Schindler's List* (1993), 195 minutes
 - Nov 19: Rwanda, Totten et al., chapter 15
 - Nov 23-27: *Thanksgiving Holiday*
 - Dec 1: Sudan, Totten et al., chapter 17
- **LAST DAY OF CLASS/REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM: December 3rd**
- **NOTE: there is no class scheduled for December 8th. Classes are operating that day on a Friday schedule.**
- **READING DAY: December 9th**
- **FINAL EXAM: Exam: Tues., Dec. 15, 2009, 3:30 - 6:30 pm, Caldwell 203.**

This is a tentative working syllabus. Any information in this syllabus is subject to change. Students are responsible for these changes.