

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

HIS 3722G
'Killing Fields': Genocide in Modern History

Friday 11:30 – 1:30
Room: Stevenson Hall 3166

Professor Frank Schumacher



The Holocaust Memorial in Berlin. Photograph by Sean Gallup/Getty Images,
May 2005, online: <http://www.life.com/image/52803774>

1. Contact Details

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2. Course Description

An estimated 200 million people have been killed worldwide in genocides since the beginning of the 20th century. Despite many international efforts to contain this form of mass violence, genocides remain one of the most enduring challenges to humanity.

This seminar comprehensively explores the causes, cases, contours, and consequences of genocides in modern history. The course consists of four parts: during the first part we will examine the conceptual foundations of genocide studies by exploring the work of Raphael Lemkin (who coined the term). To understand the concept's evolution and its various interpretations we will also study the disciplinary perspectives and theoretical insights of anthropology, history, sociology, law, political science, social psychology, and philosophy.

The second part of the seminar is devoted to historical case studies. We will test some of the conceptual insights from the first part with historical specificity and explore the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust, and the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda.

In the third part we will apply those historical insights to three of the most important research themes in genocide studies: perpetrators, victims, and gender.

The fourth part explores the consequences of genocides. We will examine the sparse and highly understudied evidence on rescue and resistance, explore the construction and contention of social memory, and study the role of education and justice. Finally, we will discuss the role of military interventions and current and past initiatives at genocide prevention.

3. Course Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Explain the causes, contours, and consequences of genocidal mass violence in modern history
- Assess and discuss the theoretical and methodological contributions of multiple social science disciplines to the study of genocide
- Identify and engage the main arguments in the research literature on human mass violence

- Compare case studies to identify historical patterns and historical specificity
- Analyze and evaluate primary sources and place them in their historical context
- Connect present day issues to historical events and provide historical contextualization for current debates on human mass violence
- Strengthen skills of oral and written communication

4. Readings

a) Required

JONES, Adam, *Genocide. A Comprehensive Introduction. Second Edition* (London: Routledge, 2011).

b) Recommended

AKCAM, Taner, *The Young Turks' Crime against Humanity: the Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2013, paperback version)

BLOXHAM, Donald, A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011 paperback edition).

BLOXHAM, Donald, *The Final Solution: A Genocide* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

HATZFELD, Jean, *Machete Season. The Killers in Rwanda Speak* (New York: Picador, 2003).

LOWER, Wendy, *Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi-Killing Fields* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Hartcourt, 2013).

c) Further Reading and Quick Orientation

ALVAREZ, Alex, *Genocidal Crimes* (New York: Routledge, 2010).

BARTROP, Paul R., Steven Leonard Jacobs (eds.), *Modern Genocide. The Definite Resource and Document Collection, 4 vols.* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2014).

CHARNY, Israel W. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Genocide* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 1999).

JONES, Adam (ed.), *New Directions in Genocide Research* (New York: Routledge, 2011).

MOSES, Dirk A. (ed.), *Genocide. Critical Concepts in Historical Studies, 6 volumes* (New York: Routledge, 2010).

ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MASS VIOLENCE, <http://www.massviolence.org/>

SHELTON, Dina L. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes against Humanity* (Detroit: Macmillan Reference, 2005).

TOTTEN, Samuel, Paul A. Bartrop (eds.), *Dictionary of Genocide* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007).

5. Evaluation

The final grade for this course is based on the accumulated results of two written assignments, one presentation, and your participation. Please note that 3rd and 4th year history seminars have been exempted from the requirement that students receive work assessment for at least 15% of their final grade three days prior to the withdrawal deadline.

Seminar Journal:	25%
Research Paper:	35%
Presentation:	20%
Participation:	20%

1. Seminar Journal

It is important to keep a record of what you read and what we talk about in class otherwise you'll quickly lose track of the substantial amount of information you will be gathering in this seminar.

Keep a seminar journal and critically evaluate all of your class readings every week. What do find convincing, what not, and why? Take notes of our weekly discussions and record the main issues. Keep track of your questions. Record any outside relevant insights you have gained on the topic outside the classroom through conversations, books, articles, trips, movies etc. Finally, discuss how your views on genocide evolve over the course of the seminar.

The final copy is due **April 6** at the beginning of class.

2. Research Essay

You are expected to write a research essay of approx. 15pp for this course on a topic mutually agreed upon. Papers will be double-spaced and printed in standard size font (i.e. Times New Roman 12pt) with standard margins. Please do not forget to spell-check your paper and number your pages. The essay is due **April 6** in class.

3. Presentation

You will serve as co-moderator for one seminar session. This assignment requires a thorough understanding of the presenter readings as well as the session's weekly class readings.

Your presentation should not exceed 20 minutes. It should link the presenter readings to the class readings and the overall theme of the week. Prepare a list of questions for further discussion. Handouts, A/V presentations, and other supplementary materials are highly recommended.

4. Participation

The success of the seminar depends on your completion of the assigned readings, your prepared attendance, and your active participation. Take notes on your readings and bring them to class. This will facilitate your participation and also help you with your weekly seminar journal assignment.

6. Seminar Schedule

Part One – Concepts and Perspectives

January 12 **“A Never-Ending Nightmare: Genocide in Modern History – Course Introduction”**

January 19 **Concepts and Perspectives I**

Class Readings

JONES, Adam, *Genocide. A Comprehensive Introduction: Second Edition* (London: Routledge, 2011), chapter 1, 1-63.

KUEHNE, Thomas, “Colonialism and the Holocaust: Continuities, Causations, and Complexities”, in: *Journal of Genocide Research* 15:3 (September 2013), 339-362.

MOSES, A. Dirk, “Raphael Lemkin, Culture, and the Concept of Genocide”, in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 19-41.

WEISS-WENDT, Anton, “The State and Genocide”, in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 81-101.

Presenter Readings

SCHALLER, Dominik J., Juergen Zimmerer (eds.), *The Origins of Genocide. Raphael Lemkin as a Historian of Mass Violence* (London: Routledge, 2009).

January 26 **Concepts and Perspectives II**

Class Readings

JONES, Adam, *Genocide*, chapters 10, 11, 12, pp. 381-463.

Presenter Readings

O'NEILL, Kevin Lewis, "Anthropology and Genocide", in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 182-197.

ROTH, Paul A., "Social Psychology and Genocide", in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 198-216.

SCHABAS, William A., "The Law and Genocide", in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 123-141.

SHAW, Martin, "Sociology and Genocide", in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 142-162.

SHUSTER, Martin, "Philosophy and Genocide", in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 217-238.

STRAUS, Scott, "Political Science and Genocide", in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 163-181.

Part Two – Case Studies

February 2

Case Study I: The Ottoman Empire

Class Readings

JONES, Adam, *Genocide*, chapter 4, 149-187.

Presenter Readings

BATROP, Paul R., Steven Leonard Jacobs (eds.), *Modern Genocide. The Definite Resource and Document Collection* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2014), Vol. 1, 64-86 (essays on overview, causes, consequences, perpetrators, victims, bystanders, international reaction) & essay on historical dilemmas, 254-273.

SUNY, Ronald Grigor, "Explaining Genocide: The Fate of the Armenians in the Late Ottoman Empire", in: Richard Bessel, Claudia B. Haake (eds.), *Removing Peoples. Forced Removal in the Modern World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 209-254.

February 9 Self-Study and Research Unit

This class is a self-study and research unit to give you the chance to review previously discussed material and to expand your understanding of the subject by reading some of the recommendations in the “further reading” sections according to your research interests.

You are also required to develop a four page outline for your research paper with the following sections: central question, explanation of relevance and context of research question, state of research on the topic, available primary sources, structure of the paper, method and theoretical framework, annotated bibliography of at least 10 books and articles relevant to your topic. **Bring your outline to class on February 16.**

February 16 Case Study II: The Holocaust

Class Readings

BROWNING, Christopher R., “The Nazi Empire”, in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 407-426.

JONES, Adam, *Genocide*, chapter 6, 233-282.

Presenter Readings

BLOXHAM, Donald, *The Final Solution: A Genocide* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

MATTHAEUS, Juergen, Martin Shaw, Omer Bartov, Doris Bergen, Donald Bloxham, “Review Forum: Bloxham, The Final Solution”, in: *Journal of Genocide Research* 13:1-2 (March/June 2011), 107-152.

March 2 Case Study III: From Cambodia to Rwanda

Class Readings

CAMBODIAN Genocide Program, Yale University. Please explore this website, in particular the section “Resources”, at:

<http://gsp.yale.edu/case-studies/cambodian-genocide-program>

JONES, Adam, *Genocide*, chapters 7 + 9, 283-316; 346-380.

Presenter Readings Rwanda

BATROP, Paul R., Steven Leonard Jacobs (eds.), *Modern Genocide. The Definite Resource and Document Collection* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2014), Vol. 4, 2759-2776 (essays on overview, causes, consequences, perpetrators, victims, bystanders, international reaction) & essay on historical dilemmas, 2987-2992.

DALLAIRE, Romeo, *Shake Hands with the Devil* (Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2003).

Part Three – Contours

March 9 Contours I: Perpetrators

Class Readings

ARENDR, Hannah, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* (New York: Penguin Books), 135-150.

AUSCHWITZ through the Lens of the SS: Photos of Nazi Leadership at the Camp, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Please explore this album at:
<https://www.ushmm.org/collections/the-museums-collections/collections-highlights/auschwitz-ssalbum>

BROWNING, Christopher R., *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (New York: Harper Collins, 1992), preface, 55-71 and 159-189.

CLARK, Janine Natalya, “Genocide, War Crimes and the Conflict in Bosnia: Understanding the Perpetrators”, in: *Journal of Genocide Research* 11:4 (2009), 421-445.

Presenter Readings

HATZFELD, Jean, *Machete Season: the Killers in Rwanda Speak* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005).

LOYLE, Cyanne E., “Why Men Participate: A Review of Perpetrator Research on the Rwandan Genocide”, in: *Journal of African Conflicts and Peace Studies* 1:2 (September 2009), 26-42.

March 16 Contours II: Victims

Class Readings

DADRIAN, Vahakn N., “Children as Victims of Genocide: the Armenian Case”, in: *Journal of Genocide Research* 5:3 (September 2003), 421-437.

HATZFELD, Jean, *Life Laid Bare: The Survivors in Rwanda Speak* (New York: Other Press, 2006), 3-29 and 59-73.

THE Auschwitz Album, Yad Vashem. Please explore this album. Go to the multimedia section first, then read the introduction and view the album, online at: http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/album_auschwitz/index.asp

TOTTEN, Samuel, "The Darfur Genocide: The Mass Rape of Black African Girls and Women", in: Samuel Totten (ed.), *Plight and Fate of Women during and following Genocide* (New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 2009), 133-167.

Presenter Readings

HATZFELD, Jean, *Life Laid Bare: The Survivors in Rwanda Speak* (New York: Other Press, 2006), 133-148 and 207-235.

MARLOWE, Jen, Aisha Bain, Adam Shapiro, *Dafur Diaries: Stories of Survival* (New York: Nation Books, 2006), 79-86 and 149-151.

RURANGWA, Reverien, *Genocide: My Stolen Rwanda* (London: Reportage Press, 2009), 27-78 and 102-131.

March 23 Contours III: Gender

Class Readings

JOEDEN-FORGEY, Elisa von, "Gender and Genocide", in: Donald Bloxham. A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 61-80.

JONES, Adam, *Genocide*, chapter 13, 464-498.

JONES, Adam, "Gendercide and Genocide", in: *Journal of Genocide Research* 2:2 (June 2000), 185-211.

SMITH, Roger W., "Women and Genocide: Notes on an Unwritten History", in: *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 8:3 (1994), 315-334.

Presenter Readings

BJORNLUND, Matthias, "'A Fate Worse than Dying': Sexual Violence during the Armenian Genocide", in: Dagmar Herzog (ed.), *Brutality and Desire: War and Sexuality in Europe's Twentieth Century* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), 16-58.

LOWER, Wendy, *Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi-Killing Fields* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Hartcourt, 2013).

Part Three - Consequences

April 6 Consequences: Rescue, Memory, and Prevention

-Research Paper and Seminar Journal Due-

Class Readings

JONES, Adam, *Genocide*, chapters 14 + 15, 501-566.

MOSES, Dirk A., "The Canadian Museum for Human Rights: The 'Uniqueness of the Holocaust' and the Question of Genocide", in: *Journal of Genocide Research* 14:2 (May 2012), 215-238.

SEMELIN, Jacques, "Introduction: From Help to Rescue", in: Jacques Semelin, Claire Andrieu, Sarah Gensburger (eds.), *Resisting Genocide. The Multiple Forms of Rescue* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011), 1-14.

ZUCKER, Eve Monique, "Matters of Morality: The Case of a Former Khmer Rouge Village Chief", in: *Anthropology and Humanism* 34:1 (2009), 31-40.

Presenter Readings

LEVENE, Mark, "From Past to Future: Prospects for Genocide and its Avoidance in the Twenty-First Century", in: Donald Bloxham, A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 638-660.

MOSES, Dirk A., "Genocide and the Terror of History", in: *parallax* 17:4 (2011), 90-108.

TEC, Nechama, "Who Dared to Rescue Jews and Why?" in: Jacques Semelin, Claire Andrieu, Sarah Gensburger (eds.), *Resisting Genocide. The Multiple Forms of Rescue* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011), 101-112.

TEVOSYAN, Hasmik, "Rescue Practices during the Armenian Genocide", in: Jacques Semelin, Claire Andrieu, Sarah Gensburger (eds.), *Resisting Genocide. The Multiple Forms of Rescue* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011), 163-182.