THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HIS 9831A

‘Killing Fields’: A Global History of Mass Violence

Fall Term 2013: Wednesday 2:30 – 4:30
Room: 1227 Lawson Hall

Professor Frank Schumacher


1. Contact Details

Office: Lawson Hall, Room 2235
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Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:30-2:30 or by appointment
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2. Course Description

This seminar comprehensively explores the causes, cases, contours, and consequences of mass violence in modern history. It examines forms of collective destructiveness against non-combatants due to political, social, religious, and cultural causes. The course draws on theoretical perspectives from a number of disciplines such as anthropology, history, sociology, law, political science, social psychology, and philosophy to develop a coherent analytical matrix for understanding mass violence.

We will discuss conceptual frameworks and apply to them a number of cases studies, including the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust, and genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda. We will explore the sources and dynamics of mass violence, study victims and perpetrators, analyze the role of gender, examine, rescue, resistance, intervention and prevention, and discuss the multiple functions of social memory to post-conflict justice.

3. Readings

a) Required


b) Course Readings

All journal articles are available in digital format through Weldon’s databases; all edited volumes and monographs are on course reserve at Weldon Library.

c) Further Reading and Quick Orientation


### 4. Evaluation

The final grade for this course is based on the accumulated results of two written assignments, one presentation, and your participation.

- 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 mass violence evolve over the course of the seminar.

I would like to see your journal twice during the semester (October 3, November 14). The final copy is due December 5 at the beginning of class.
2. Research Essay

You are expected to write a research essay of 15-20pp 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 December 5 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 30 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.

5. Seminar Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part One – Concepts and Perspectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 12 “A Never-Ending Nightmare: Mass Violence in Modern History – Course Introduction”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19 Concepts and Perspectives I</td>
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Class Readings


**Presenter Readings**


**September 26 Concepts and Perspectives II**

**Class Readings**

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

**Presenter Readings**


Part Two – Case Studies

October 3 Case Study I: The Ottoman Empire

--Seminar Journal Due--

Class Readings
JONES, Adam, Genocide, chapter 4, 149-187.

Presenter Readings


October 10 Case Study II: The Holocaust

Class Readings

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

Presenter Readings
BAUER, Yehuda, Rethinking the Holocaust (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2001), 1-118.

October 17 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://www.yale.edu/cgp/index.html

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

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


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**Part Three – Contours**

### October 24  Contours I: Perpetrators

**Class Readings**


AUSCHWITZ through the Lens of the SS: Photos of Nazi Leadership at the Camp, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Please explore this album and watch the short documentary, online at: [http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/ssalbum/](http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/ssalbum/)


**Presenter Readings**


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### October 31  Contours II: Victims

**Class Readings**


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://www1.yadvashem.org/exhibitions/album_auschwitz/index.html


**Presenter Readings**


**November 7 Contours III: Gender**

**Class Readings**


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


**Presenter Readings**

BJORNLU ND, 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.

November 14  Documentary

-- Seminar Journal Due--

“Worse Than War” by Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, 2010, 120 minutes. For more information on the film: http://www.pbs.org/wnet/worse-than-war/tag/daniel-goldhagen/

Part Three - Consequences

November 21  Consequences I: Rescue and Resistance

Class Readings


Presenter Readings

November 28  Consequences II: Social Memory, Education, and Justice

Class Readings


**Presenter Readings**


**December 5 Consequences III: Intervention and Prevention**

**Research Paper and Seminar Journal Due**

**Class Readings**


