

HISTORY 317/ JS 317. HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE

SPRING 2006. Section 01.

TU 4:10-6:55, BUS 125

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This course will introduce the history of genocide with questions such as: How could monstrous genocidal events happen? What conditions allowed them? What attitudes towards race, gender, religion, and class, have made certain groups vulnerable to persecution? What systems of terror, co-optation, and deception have turned persecution into mass murder? What forms of resistance and rescue have developed? What political, moral, and psychological effects of past genocides persist today?

We will use essays, primary sources, testimonies, films, poetry, comics, for understanding events that have been called genocide, involving Native Americans, Africans, Armenians, Ukrainians, Jews, Roma/Sinti, disabled, homosexuals, Cambodians, and contemporary examples.

GE CREDIT: Hist/JS 317 counts for General Education credit in certain Segment III clusters.

Assignments include class discussions, weekly readings, a midterm, a report on videos, a take-home final.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Samuel Totten, et al., *Century of Genocide: Critical Essays and Eyewitness Accounts*, second edition (2004) [**CG**]. [Alternative: earlier edition plus extra 2004 chapters on electronic reserve]
- Donald L. Niewyk, *The Holocaust*, third edition (2003) [**TH**]
- Art Spiegelman, *Maus II* (1991) [**Maus**]
- Four hours of video [see below]

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES (percentages approximate)

- Attendance, preparation, participation, quizzes. [30%]
Attendance is important in a 3-hour class. Preparation means carefully reading the assignment and being prepared to discuss it. Occasional quizzes may occur! Please consider the following questions as you read:
What surprised you in this week's readings?
What particularly moved or disturbed you?
What evidence was used for conclusions, and what details did you learn from eyewitness accounts?
What do you consider "genocidal," if anything, about this week's subject?

- Midterm and final assignments (Cover Sheets 1 and 3) [50%]. DUE MARCH 28 AND MAY 23. [Special needs, please see Mary]
- Visual Documentation assignment (Cover Sheet 2) [20%].
DUE BY MAY 2.
Any time during the semester you must watch at least four hours of video. [See Mary for special needs]. Recommended videos are listed in Cover Sheet 2. A report on your visual documentation is due by May 10.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

When?

- In-class midterm, March 28, on all readings and classroom lectures/discussions through March 21. [Special needs, see M]
- Video report due by May 2.
- Take-home final, by May 23 at 4:10 p.m., including all readings and lectures/discussions April 11 through May 16. Due in Mary Felstiner's mailbox, SCI 276. No late papers please.

How?

- In completing the written assignments, be thoughtful about the questions and specific in using factual material from the readings and classes. Please attach cover sheets to each assignment and carefully follow instructions.
- Midterm is handwritten in class. Final take-home assignment should be five to eight pp. long, typed, double-spaced.

Extra Credit?

- Each week you may choose (for extra credit) to write out answers to questions on that week's readings, posted ahead of time on Mary Felstiner's website (<http://bss.sfsu.edu/felstiner/>). DUE ANY WEEK FOR THAT WEEK'S ASSIGNMENT (not to be handed in later). These will count only in your favor, graded on their quality and quantity, and can boost a final grade.

Absence Makeup?

- The FIRST week after an absence (NOT LATER) you can change the absence to an Excused Absence by handing in both a filled-out pink absence sheet, detailing a valid medical reason or other unavoidable event, AND typed answers to the questions on that week's readings, posted on <http://bss.sfsu.edu/felstiner/>.

What if? (*late or uncompleted assignments, withdrawals*)

- It's your responsibility to keep up to date. Any makeup or withdrawal procedures are also your responsibility. Any problems: call Mary (415-338-7543) or email: mf@sfsu.edu.
- Any work not handed in by 4:10 p.m. May 23, 2006 is considered *uncompleted work*. Your course grade is determined by your completed work minus your uncompleted work.
- No instructor-initiated incompletes are issued. Emergency-only Incompletes must be requested, and completed within one year. If not, grade is assigned for completed minus uncompleted work. To make up Incomplete, deliver "Change of Grade" form, completed assignment, and stamped self-addressed envelope to the History Department for mailing to Mary.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART I. GENOCIDE: A WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON

- JAN 31 INTRODUCTION: DEFINITIONS.
- FEB 7 COLONIALISM: NATIVE AMERICA, AFRICA
CG, Preface and Introduction, pp. xi-13; chapter 1, pp. 15-51 (Hereros)
- FEB 14 NATIONALISM: ARMENIA
CG, chapter 2, pp. 53-90 (Armenians)
- FEB 21 POLITICS AND WAR: STALINISM, UKRAINE
CG, chapter 3, pp. 93-124 (Ukraine)
- FEB 28 NATION AND PARTY: CAMBODIA
CG, chapter 11, pp. 339-373 (Cambodia)
 Choose one of following *CG* chapters: Indonesia, East Timor, Bangladesh.
- MAR 7 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
 Choose one of following *CG* chapters: Burundi, Rwanda, Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, or reserved articles on Darfur, Sudan. Film (in class): "Hotel Rwanda."

PART II. THE HOLOCAUST: A MODERN PHENOMENON

- MAR 14 ORIGINS: RACISM, ANTI-SEMITISM, WAR
TH, Preface, Intro., Ch. 1, (Origins), pp. ix-55.
CG, Ch. 6 (Disabled), pp. 205-30.
- MAR 21 PERPETRATORS
TH, chapter 2 (Motivations of Killers), pp. 57-118;
- MAR 28 IN-CLASS MIDTERM TEST. SEE COVER SHEET 1.
Midterm covers classes and readings from January 31 through March 21. **Cover Sheet 1.**

- APR 4 SPRING BREAK. *NO CLASS MEETING.*
- APR 11 TARGETS: WOMEN, JEWS, GYPSIES
 TH, ch. 3 (Holocaust Experience), pp. 105-136.
 CG, ch. 5 (Gypsies), 161-202.
- APR 18 SURVIVORS
 Guest Lecturer: Gloria Lyon, survivor and speaker
 CG, chapter 4 (Jews), pp. 127-159.
 Film (in class): “When I Was Fourteen”
- APR 25 BYSTANDERS AND RESCUERS
 TH, chapter 5 (Bystanders), pp. 179-231, chapter 6
 (Rescue), pp. 233-274
- MAY 2 RESISTERS: FIGHTERS, ARTISTS, WRITERS
 Video Assignment due. See Cover Sheet 2.
 TH, chapter 4, Resistance, pp. 139-176
 Guest Lecturer: John Felstiner, author
- MAY 9 LIBRARY DAY. *NO CLASS MEETING.*
 Prepare next week’s assignment (important last
 class), start preparing final assignment.
- MAY 16 ANNIHILATION AND AFTERMATH. EVALUATION.
 MAUS II (entire)
 CG, chapter 16 (Responding to genocide), pp. 455-
 468; chapter 17 (Intervention), pp. 469-90.
- MAY 24 TAKE-HOME FINAL ASSIGNMENT.
 Final Assignment (including classes and readings
 from April 11 through May 16) due by 4:15 p.m. in
 Mary Felstiner’s office, SCI 265, OR mailbox,
 History Department, SCI 276. See **Cover Sheet 3.**