

HIST 608
Colloquium: Genocide in World History
Fall 2012

Professor Jeff Ostler
383 McKenzie Hall

Office Hours:

Mon., 10:30-noon

Tues., 11:00-12:30

and by appointment

Phone: 6-1265

Email: jostler@uoregon.edu

About the colloquium:

A conversation (colloquium) on the topic of genocide in world history provides an opportunity to explore several issues.

The most obvious of these is the history of a variety of phenomena (ranging from massive/total violence to forced removal to cultural destruction) that scholars have discussed under the rubric of genocide (and related terms like ethnic cleansing). These issues have always been important for historians, though whether frameworks created by the invention of the term genocide and the legal and moral issues surrounding it assist or hinder historians' understandings is an open question.

Since works on genocide seek to explain it as a general phenomenon or to explain one or more historical cases, they necessarily draw on/create frameworks to do so. Because of this, the colloquium will allow us to explore those frameworks, not just as they relate to genocide but on their own terms. Thus, we will consider issues related to nationalism, racism, revolution, ideology, modernity, democracy, totalitarianism, colonialism, identity, and group psychology (not an exhaustive list).

The colloquium also provides an opportunity to think critically about the emergence of genocide studies, a relatively new interdisciplinary field with an international presence and influence. How did this field emerge? How have scholars writing about genocide defined the term, and what has been involved in debates over these definitions? What are the concerns and assumptions of genocide studies? How has the field changed over time? What kinds of cases has the field considered and what kind has it omitted? What are the strengths and weaknesses of genocide studies? How have various disciplinary perspectives (including, of course, history) influenced the field?

Finally, depending on students' inclinations, there will be some room for consideration of the contemporary politics of the history of genocide and other historical "wrongs." Why, for example, has the question of genocide in Australian history become a matter for national debate, whereas the question of genocide in U.S. history has not? Or, to take another example, what are the politics surrounding the question of Turkey's genocide of Armenians both within Turkey and outside (i.e., France and the United States)? Why do certain historical wrongs (involving claims of genocide, but other claims as well) become subject to claims for reparations?

Readings:

Readings are listed below. Sufficient copies of books should be available through Summit, though this will require advance planning. All other readings (articles, book chapters, reports, drafts of papers, etc.) will be made available through Blackboard.

Assignments:

1. Students will be responsible for opening the discussion for sessions 2 through 8. Each student will be required to do this once (in most cases, two students will be assigned to a session). Students responsible for a particular session will spend 10-15 minutes presenting issues for discussion at the beginning of the session and then initiate a conversation.

2. Each student will give a brief oral presentation in sessions 9 and 10.

3. Six short papers (1-2 pages), noted on the schedule, due at the beginning of the session.

4. A long paper (20-25 pages) addressing either specific issues or cases relating to genocide. Papers could take up issues and cases that receive significant attention in the assigned readings or issues and cases that are less prominent or unaddressed in the assigned readings. This paper will be due on Wed., Dec. 5, at 5 p.m.

Grading:

I will make a holistic evaluation of your work in the seminar, weighted more to the long paper than any other assignment, but taking into account the quality of your contribution to the conversations and the short written assignments. The only assignment I will formally grade will be the long paper.

Schedule:

Week 1 (9/26): United States and the Problem of Genocide

Reading:

Samantha Power, "*A Problem from Hell*": *America and the Age of Genocide* (2002)

Week 2 (10/3): Definitions

Readings:

Raphaël Lemkin, "Genocide," Chapter 9 of *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe* (1944), pp. 79-95

Ann Curthoys and John Docker, "Defining Genocide," in *The Historiography of Genocide*, edited by Dan Stone (2008), pp. 9-41

- Scott Straus, "Contested Meanings and Conflicting Imperatives: A Conceptual Analysis of Genocide," *Journal of Genocide Research* 3 (November 2001): 349-375
- Benjamin Lieberman, "'Ethnic Cleansing' Versus Genocide?," in *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies*, edited by Donald Bloxham and A. Dirk Moses (2010), pp. 42-60
- Steven T. Katz, "The Uniqueness of the Holocaust: The Historical Dimension," in *Is the Holocaust Unique? Perspectives on Comparative Genocide*, edited and with an introduction by Alan S. Rosenbaum (1998), pp. 19-38
- David E. Stannard, "Uniqueness as Denial: The Politics of Genocide Scholarship," in *Is The Holocaust Unique?*, pp. 163-208
- Gavriel D. Rosenfeld, "The Politics of Uniqueness: Reflections on the Recent Polemical Turn in Holocaust and Genocide Studies," *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 13 (Spring 1999): 28-61
- Stuart D. Stein, "Conceptions and Terms: Templates for the Analysis of Holocausts and Genocides," *Journal of Genocide Research* 7 (June 2005): 171-203
- Paul Boghossian, "The Concept of Genocide"; Berel Lang, "Response to Paul Boghossian, 'The Concept of Genocide'"; William A. Schabas, "Commentary on Paul Boghossian, 'The Concept of Genocide'"; Eric D. Weitz, "Genocide and the Rigor of Philosophy: A Comment on Paul Boghossian"; Paul Boghossian, "Response to My Critics" all in *Journal of Genocide Research* 12 (March-June 2010): 69-112.

Writing:

One-page reaction to one of the articles

Week 3 (10/10): Nationalism

Reading:

Eric Weitz, *A Century of Genocide: Utopias of Race and Nation* (2003)

Writing:

Choose an article or book from notes to chapter 1, "Race and Nation," of Weitz's book. One-page summary of how Weitz uses the book or article.

Week 4 (10/17): Democracy

Reading:

Michael Mann, *The Dark Side of Democracy: Explaining Ethnic Cleansing* (2005)

Writing:

One-page reaction to the argument Mann makes for one of his cases.

Week 5 (10/24): Other Frameworks

Readings (choose one):

- Zygmunt Bauman, *Modernity and the Holocaust* (1989)
Mark Levene, *Genocide in the Age of the Nation State*, 2 vols. (2005)
Robert Melson, *Revolution and Genocide: On the Origins of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust* (1992)
Norman Naimark, *Fires of Hatred: Ethnic Cleansing in Twentieth Century Europe* (2001)
Jacques Semelin, *Purify and Destroy: The Political Uses of Massacre and Genocide* (2007)
Ervin Staub, *The Roots of Evil: The Origins of Genocide and Other Forms of Group Violence* (1989)
Martin Shaw, *What Is Genocide?* (2007)
Benjamin Valentino, *Final Solutions: Mass Killing and Genocide in the Twentieth Century* (2004)

Writing:

Two-page book review

Week 6 (10/31): Agriculture

Reading:

Ben Kiernan, *Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination From Sparta to Darfur* (2007)

All read introduction, chapter 1, introductory note to parts 2 and 3, and epilogue carefully. All read most other chapters somewhere between a skim and carefully. All chose one chapter for careful focus and evaluation of argument.

Writing:

One-page abstract of the chosen chapter

Week 7 (11/7): Colonialism and Settler Colonialism

Readings:

- A. Dirk Moses, "Empire, Colony, Genocide: Keywords and the Philosophy of History," in *Empire, Colony, Genocide: Conquest, Occupation, and Subaltern Resistance in World History*, edited by A. Dirk Moses (2008), pp. 3-54
Isabel V. Hull, "Military Culture and the Production of 'Final Solutions' in the Colonies: The Example of Wilhelminian Germany," in *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective*, edited by Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan (2003), pp. 141-162

- Dominik J. Schaller, "Genocide and Mass Violence in the 'Heart of Darkness': Africa in the Colonial Period," in *Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies*, pp. 345-364
- Patrick Wolfe, "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native," in *Journal of Genocide Research* 8 (December 2006): 387-409
- Tony Barta, "Relations of Genocide: Land and Lives in the Colonization of Australia," in *Genocide in the Modern Age: Etiology and Case Studies of Mass Death*, edited by Isidor Wallimann and Michael N. Dobkowski (1987), pp. 237-251
- A. Dirk Moses, "Genocide and Settler Society in Australian History," in *Genocide and Settler Society: Frontier Violence and Stolen Indigenous Children in Australian History* (2004), pp. 3-48
- Henry Reynolds, "Genocide in Tasmania?" in *Genocide and Settler Society*, pp. 127-149
- Ann Curthoys, "Genocide in Tasmania: The History of an Idea," in *Empire, Colony and Genocide*, pp. 229-252
- Stuart Macintyre and Anna Clark, "Frontier Conflict," Chapter 8 of *The History Wars* (2003), pp. 142-170, 269-275
- Robert Manne, "Aboriginal Child Removal and the Question of Genocide," in *Genocide and Settler Society*, pp. 217-243
- Margaret Jacobs, "Maternal Colonialism: White Women and Indigenous Child Removal in the American West and Australia," *Western Historical Quarterly* 36 (Winter 2005): 453-476

Writing:

One-page identification of an issue and reaction to it

Week 8 (11/14): Americas

- Michael McDonnell and A. Dirk Moses, "Raphael Lemkin as Historian of Genocide in the Americas," *Journal of Genocide Research* (Dec. 2005); 501-529
- Ward Churchill, selections from *A Little Matter of Genocide: Holocaust and Denial in the Americas, 1492 to the Present* (1997), pp. 129-140, 154-157, 169-178
- Steven T. Katz, "The Pequot War Reconsidered," *New England Quarterly* 64 (June 1991): 206-224
- Michael Freeman, "Puritans and Pequots: The Question of Genocide," *New England Quarterly* 68 (June 1995): 278-293
- Selections from "Report of the Investigative Committee of the Standing Committee on Research Misconduct at the University of Colorado at Boulder concerning Allegations of Academic Misconduct Against Professor Ward Churchill" (2006), pp. 1-12, 39-82

- Karl Jacoby, "'The Broad Platform of Extermination': Nature and Violence in the Nineteenth Century North American Borderlands," *Journal of Genocide Research* 10 (June 2008): 249-267
- Benjamin Madley, "California's Yuki Indians: Defining Genocide in Native American History," *Western Historical Quarterly* 39 (Autumn 2008): 303-332
- Nicholas A. Robins, "Symbolism and Subalternity: The 1680 Pueblo Revolt of New Mexico and the 1780-82 Andean Great Rebellion," in *Genocides by the Oppressed: Subaltern Genocide in Theory and Practice*, edited by Nicholas A. Robins and Adam Jones (2009), 25-46
- Victoria Sanford, "'Si Hubo Genocidio en Guatemala!': Yes! There Was Genocide in Guatemala," in *Historiography of Genocide*, pp. 543-576
- Jeffrey Ostler, research proposal for "The Destruction and Survival of American Indian Communities, 1754-1900"
- Jeffrey Ostler, draft paper on American Indians' consciousness of genocide, 1750s-1810s

Writing:

One-page identification of an issue in the readings and a reaction to it

Week 9 (11/21 or another date): Other Issues

All choose an issue to be investigated and read/skim relevant articles and/or books. The issue could be one already explored in some depth, mentioned but not discussed much, or not at all mentioned. Possibilities: the proliferation of "cides"; gender and genocide; "cultural genocide"; is the world getting less violent?; genocide and memory; reparations; national recognition and non-recognition of genocide; genocide and a particular academic discipline (e.g., sociology, political science, etc.)

Week 10 (11/28): Further Comparisons and Cases

Same as above, except for cases of genocide/possible genocide.

Long Paper Due, 12/5, 5 p.m.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Donald Bloxham and A. Dirk Moses, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies* (2010) [on reserve]

Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan, eds., *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (2003) [on reserve]

Adam Jones, *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction* (2007) [on reserve]

William L. Hewitt, ed., *Defining the Horrific: Readings on Genocide and Holocaust in the Twentieth Century* (2004) [on reserve]

Dan Stone, ed., *The Historiography of Genocide* (2010) [on reserve]