

POL2295G

Genocide

January – April 2019

Class: Tuesdays 6:30-9:30pm

Dr. Lindsay Scorgie-Porter

Office: A15

Office Hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30 and Fridays 11:30-12:30

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

POL2295G will introduce students to the key theoretical frameworks, concepts, and debates within the study of genocide and other mass crimes of the state (including famine and ethnic cleansing). The course will begin with a conceptual and historical overview of genocide, as well as an examination of the definition of genocide provided by the United Nations 1948 Genocide Convention. We will then move on to consider some of the most profound cases of genocide and mass violence over the past century, starting with the Armenian genocide, and ending with discussion of the Islamic State's persecution of the Yazidi population. Each week will focus in-depth on one key case study. Through the lectures, readings, tutorial presentations, and discussions, we will consider: (1) the background, sources, causes, and effects of the particular genocide, and (2) the international community's involvement (or rather in most cases, lack thereof). We will conclude the course with consideration of the paradox regarding increased awareness of genocide, yet lack of improvement in prevention and responses.

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the course, students will not only have a strong grasp of the concepts and theories of genocide, but will also be able to critically analyze the role of international responses in shaping the course of such events.

CLASS METHODOLOGY

POL2295G is a lecture and tutorial course. The first two hours of each class will involve a lecture delivered by the professor, while the last hour will focus on student-led discussions regarding that week's readings. There will be a strong emphasis on class participation, and it is accordingly essential that students arrive to class prepared. Adequate preparation includes having completed weekly readings in advance, and being willing to discuss the reading and lecture material with fellow classmates. As the final exam will include reading, lecture, and discussion material, it is strongly advised that students take notes re. all three course components.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

Power, Samantha. *"A Problem From Hell": America and the Age of Genocide* (New York: Harper Collins, 2002).

Totten, Samuel, and William S. Parsons, eds. *Centuries of Genocide: Essays and Eyewitness Accounts*, fourth edition (New York: Routledge, 2013).

The above course readings are available from the UWO bookstore. All readings listed under the 'Lecture and Tutorial Schedule' are *required readings*, to be done *in advance* of the lecture/tutorial. Those readings not found in either the Power or Totten & Parsons texts, are provided under the 'Readings' tab found within the 'Resources' folder on the course website. At times additional readings about current topical events will be added to the required reading list. These will be particularly relevant for tutorial discussions. At least one week advanced notice will be given with regards to these readings, and students will be notified via the course website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation	Value 15%	Ongoing evaluation
Seminar discussion	Value 10%	TBD
Critical response paper	Value 15%	5 February 2019
Research essay	Value 35%	12 March 2019
Final exam	Value 25%	During spring exam period

Participation:

Class participation will be graded on the basis of attendance, active participation in class, and contribution to the online forum. The professor will take into account the *quality* of one's contributions – not simply the quantity – when assessing participation in class.

Seminar discussion:

In groups of two, students will be required to lead one tutorial discussion. This should be approximately 10 minutes (each), followed by two discussion questions for the class. In the presentation, students should critically discuss one or two major points addressed in the week's readings. The presentation should highlight important questions identified by the author(s), with the students providing their own observations and critical analysis on such issues. Sign-up for presentation dates will take place during the first class in January. Please note that late penalties do not apply to these assignments and no extensions will be granted.

Critical response paper:

Students will be required to write a critical response paper examining the assigned readings for weeks one through four. The papers should be roughly 1,000 words in length. The purpose of the paper is not to summarize the readings. Rather, students

should critically engage with two or three significant points addressed throughout the readings.

Research essay:

Students will be required to write a 2,000-2,500 word essay on a particular dimension of one of the case studies profiled in the course. Suggestions of possible topics include:

- Gender dimensions of genocide or famine
- Trajectory of survivors in post-genocide contexts
- How decisions to perpetrate genocide are decided upon
- Perpetrators' conception of the 'enemy'
- Role of bystanders
- Role of the media (international and/or local)
- Actions of a specific member of the international community
- Another topic chosen by the student, in consultation with the professor

The essay is to be based on a minimum of ten academic sources (peer-reviewed journals, books, or book chapters), and is due 12 March 2019.

Formatting requirements for the essay are the following:

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- double-spaced (except for footnotes and bibliography)
- 2.5cm margins
- pages numbered
- title page with your name, date, course title, and paper title (your essay must have an actual title)
- footnotes and bibliography *must* be included
- Chicago Manual of Style citation format should be carefully and consistently followed throughout

Papers are due at the *beginning* of class on the specified due dates. The late penalty for papers is *2 percent per working day* (including if submitted late on the actual due date), and essays will not be accepted after 10 days past the submission deadline. In addition to submitting a hard copy of their papers, students will be required to submit an online copy to the course website, where it will be checked for plagiarism via Turnitin.com. All forms of plagiarism will be taken extremely seriously.

Please note: other than for serious cases of emergency, extensions will *not* be granted. Thus, having multiple work assignments due around the same time, employment responsibilities, or being out of town, do not constitute valid reasons for extensions. Extensions are very rarely granted; if requesting one, documentation of your reason (i.e. doctor's note, hospital records) *must* be provided.

Final exam:

The final exam will take place during the spring examination period; the specific date will be set by the Office of the Registrar. It will cover the *entire* course: readings, lectures, and tutorials. It will be a combination of short answer questions and short

essays.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

I am happy to meet with students during my office hours, both to discuss issues relating to the course, as well as your academic career more generally. If getting in-touch by email, please note that I will respond within two business days.

Students should check their UWO email account and OWL course site on a regular basis.

LECTURE AND TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

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| Jan. 8 | Introduction to POL 2295G <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Totten and Parsons: Appendix.• Power: Preface. |
| Jan. 15 | Conceptual Frameworks: Understanding Genocide, Famine, and Other Crimes of the State <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jones, Adam. <i>Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction</i> (New York: Routledge, 2011): 3-38.• Gellately, Robert, and Ben Kiernan. "The Study of Mass Murder and Genocide," in Robert Gellately, and Ben Kiernan, eds., <i>The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003): 3-26. |
| Jan. 22 | Armenian Genocide <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power: Chapter 1.• Totten and Parsons: Chapter 4. |
| Jan. 29 | Holodomor (Ukrainian Famine) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Totten and Parsons: Chapter 5.• James E. Mace. "The Politics of Famine: American Government and Press Response to the Ukrainian Famine, 1932-1933." <i>Holocaust and Genocide Studies</i> 3, 1 (1988): 75-94. |
| Feb. 5 | Holocaust <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power: Chapters 2 and 3.• Totten and Parsons: Chapter 6. |
| Feb. 12 | Cambodian Genocide <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power: Chapters 6 and 7 (Chapter 7 is recommended, but not required). |

