

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Genocide, Famine, and Other Mass Atrocities**

Course Number and Section:

POLISCI

2293F 550

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

POL2293F will introduce students to the key theoretical frameworks, concepts, and debates within the study of genocide and other mass atrocities (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, and class discussions we will consider: (1) the background, causes, and effects of the particular genocide, and (2) the international community's involvement (or rather in most cases, lack thereof). We will consider throughout the course the paradox regarding increasing awareness of genocide, yet lack of improvement in prevention and responses.

Learning Outcomes:

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. Students will have further developed:

- Critical analysis and writing skills via conducting original research with secondary sources.
- Time management and organization skills via meeting assignment deadlines.
- Public speaking skills via contributing to class discussions and group exercises.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

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

Jones, Adam. Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction. Fourth Edition (New York: Routledge, 2023).

Both texts are available from Amazon and the UWO bookstore. The required readings for certain weeks include academic articles and / or media articles. The academic sources are all accessible via the course site, and the media links are provided below. I recognize that there is a significant reading component to this course, but strongly believe this is essential to fully appreciate these case studies.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	Ongoing evaluation	20
Paper One	10/21/2024	20
Paper Two	11/25/2024	25
Final Exam	During final exam period	35

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Sunday, July 28, 2024