

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Genocide, Famine, and Other Mass Atrocities

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

2293G 550

Instructor Name(s): Lindsay Scorgie

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace 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 (approximately), starting with the Armenian genocide, and ending with the Rohingya genocide. Each week will focus in-depth on one key case study. Through the lectures, readings, and class discussions we will examine: (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 relative lack of improvement in prevention and responses.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

a strong grasp of the concepts and theories of genocide
be able to critically analyze the role of international responses in shaping the course of mass atrocity events
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:

None

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	N/A	20
Paper One	Feb. 19, 2026	20

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Paper Two	Apr. 2, 2026	25
Final exam	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, December 14, 2025

Huron Brief Course Outline

In-course Costs

\$110.58

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook's publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].