

HIST 2030
Tureaud 109
Fall 2018
MWF 10:30 – 11:20 a.m.

Dr. Brendan Karch
Himes 223A
Office Hours: Mon & Wed 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
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TA: Greg Tomlinson | gtomli1@lsu.edu
Office Hours: Tues 1 – 2 p.m. & Wed 12 – 1 p.m. | Himes 303

War, Mass Violence and Genocide

This course examines the phenomena of mass violence against civilians in the context of warfare, postwar settlements, or fear of future war. These events have earned various names: ethnic cleansings, forced resettlements, famines, genocides, purges, the Holocaust, or massacres. What are the common causes and consequences linking these atrocities? What makes each case unique? This course will tackle the histories, politics, and legacies of several cases: the destruction of native populations through “settler colonialism,” the Armenian genocide, the Soviet famine in Ukraine, the Holocaust, postwar expulsion of Germans, the Indian Partition, anti-Communist massacres in Indonesia, and the Rwandan genocide.

General Education Requirements

HIST 2030 fulfills three hours toward the General Education requirements for the humanities, by addressing the following competency: LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity which supports sophisticated discourse.

Course Objectives

Students in this course will develop an ability to make sense of the past by reconstructing causal patterns, identifying trends, and making informed comparisons between different historical cases. Students will grasp the influence of varied and complex historical factors on the lives of individuals in societies, and develop critical thinking and source analysis skills.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

You may discuss issues with me at any time. To request official academic accommodations, you should also seek the assistance of the Office of Disability Services (112 Johnston Hall, 578-5919). You should make all formal requests **in the first weeks of the semester**.

Assignments and Grading:

- Attendance (10%): You are expected to attend class Mon, Wed, and Fri. I will take regular attendance. After two ‘free pass’ absences, for each *unexcused* absence, your attendance grade will drop 5%. (Ex: If you miss six classes, your attendance grade will be 80%.)
- Participation (10%): This will be based primarily on Friday discussions. Our course will be split into two, and the TA and professor will rotate each week to cover one half of the class. You will be expected to come prepared (having done *all* readings and assignments), and to contribute to discussion. Positive contributions mean being a good speaker and a good listener. Your contributions should be respectful, add to the discussion, and fit within its

flow. You will be graded based on quality more than quantity.

- First Essay (15%): A short research project on settler genocides using the historical *NY Times* database. (3-5 pages.) **Due 9/17**
- Second Essay (15%): Analyze Armenian genocide denialist literature. (3-5 pages.) **Due 10/3**
- Take-Home Midterm (15%): A series of essay questions with choices (open book/note). Must be completed alone. **Due 10/17**
- Third Essay (15%): Follow the Footnotes: You will select a source from the syllabus and write an analytic essay based on reading several of its footnoted sources. (3-5 pages) **Due 11/12**
- Final Exam (20%): Take home final, a series of essay questions with choices (open book/note). Must be completed alone. **Due Wed, Dec. 5 @ noon.**

All assignments will be graded on a 100-point scale. They will be averaged according to the weighting above, and the final grade will be calculated as follows:

A+ 97 or above | A 93-96.9 | A- 90-92.9 | B+ 87-89.9 | B 83-86.9 | B- 80-82.9 | C+ 77-79.9 | C 73-76.9 | C- 70-72.9 | D+ 67-69.9 | D 63-66.9 | D- 60-62.9 | F 0-59.9

Books for purchase:

Grigoris Balakian, *Armenian Golgotha*

Art Spiegelman, *Maus, Vol. 1*

Jean Hatzfeld, *Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak*

All other sources will be available on Moodle. They are labeled with a *

Week 1: Genocide and the Long-Term View

8/20: Why study genocide and mass violence?

8/22: The Long View: Is violence declining?

8/24: *Discussion*

* Steven Pinker, *Better Angels of Our Nature*, YouTube lecture

o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEgzoypQDNw> (7:00-28min)

* Adam Jones, *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction*, Ch. 1

Week 2: Defining Genocide and Settler Colonialism

8/27: The History of the Term ‘Genocide’

8/29: 1492 and After

8/31: *Discussion*

* Lemkin, “Genocide” *The American Scholar*

* Cocker, *Rivers of Blood, Rivers of Gold*, Chs. 1-5

* De las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*, pp. 42-56

Week 3: Settler Colonialism Continued

9/3: **Labor Day | No Class**

9/5: Manifest Destiny

9/7: *Discussion*

* Greenberg, *Manifest Destiny and American Territorial Expansion* (Documents 6-14)

Week 4: Settler Colonialism Pt 2 – The Herero and Nama Genocide

9/10: High Colonialism and Genocide

9/12: The Lessons of the Other German Genocide

9/14: *Discussion*

* Zimmerer, “Annihilation in Africa”

* Hull, “Military Culture and the Production of ‘Final Solutions’ in the Colonies”

* Current Affairs Articles on German Responsibility for Genocide

Week 5: The Armenian Genocide

9/17: Armenians and Other Christians in the Ottoman Empire | **First Essay Due**

9/19: WWI and Genocide

9/21: *Discussion*

* Jones, *Genocide*, Ch. 4

Balakian, *Armenian Golgotha*, Vol. I: Chs. 3-12

Week 6: The Armenian Genocide: Aftermath and Legacy

9/24: The Unmaking of Ottoman Diversity

9/26: Turkey and the Legacy of Genocide

9/28: **No Class**. *Take time to work on second essay.*

Balakian, *Armenian Golgotha*, Vol I: Chs. 17, 22. Vol II: Chs. 25-27, 31-36

* De Waal, “The G-Word” *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2015

* FactCheckArmenia.com (browse website)

Week 7: The Soviet Famine in Ukraine

10/1: Ukrainian Nationality and Soviet Ideology

10/3: The Famine Among Other Stalinist Crimes | **Second Essay Due**

10/5: **Fall Break | No Class**

* *Centuries of Genocide*, Ch. 5

* Kuromiya, “The Soviet Famine of 1932-33 Reconsidered,” *Europe-Asia Studies*, 2008

Week 8: The Holocaust – Anti-Semitic Origins and Causes

10/8: Nazi Ideology and German Crisis

10/10: The Twisted Road to Auschwitz

10/12: *Discussion*

* Burleigh & Wippermann, *The Racial State*, Ch. 4

Spiegelman, *Maus*, Chs. 1-3

Week 9: The Singularity of the Holocaust

10/15: From Racial Utopia to Genocide

10/17: The European Holocaust | **Mid-Term Due in Class**

10/19: *Discussion*

* Caplan, *Nazi Germany*, Ch. 9

* *Genocide Reader*, pp. 119-123, 133-134

Spiegelman, *Maus*, Chs. 4-6

Week 10: Postwar expulsion of Germans and Remembrance

10/22: Expelling Germans

10/24: Remembering the Holocaust

10/26: *Discussion*

* Naimark, *Fires of Hatred*, Ch. 4

* Judt, "From the House of the Dead," *NY Review of Books*, Oct. 6, 2005

* Articles on the planned 'Center for Expulsions' in Berlin

Week 11: The Partition of India

10/29: Communalism and Colonialism

10/31: Partition and Its Legacy

11/2: *Discussion*

* Pandey, *Remembering Partition*, Ch. 2

* Das, "National Honour and Practical Kinship" in *Critical Events*

* Talbot & Singh, *Partition of India*, Ch. 6

Week 12: Anti-Communist Massacres in Indonesia

11/5: The Cold War Context

11/7: The Failed Coup and Its Legacy

11/9: *Discussion*

* Cribb, "Genocide in Indonesia, 1965-1966," *Journal of Genocide Research*, 2001

* US Documents on Indonesia, *Foreign Relations of the US, 1964-68, Vol. XXVI*

* Film: *The Act of Killing*

Week 13: The Rwandan Genocide

11/12: Ancient Ethnic Hatreds or Colonial Legacy? | **Third Essay Due**

11/14: The Genocide and Its Aftermath

11/16: *Discussion*

* Jones, *Genocide*, Ch. 9

Machete Season, excerpts

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Week 14: Other Cases

11/19: Common Links and Unique Circumstances

11/21 & 11/23: **No Class | Thanksgiving**

No Readings This Week

Week 15: Taking Stock

11/26: A Global Problem for the 21st Century?

11/28: Remembering and Preventing

11/30: *Discussion*

- * Bloxham and Pendas, “Punishment as Prevention” in *Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies*
- * Totten and Bartrop, “The United Nations and Genocide,” *Human Rights Review*, Jul 2004
- * Current-affairs articles on the ICC

*Take-home final exam due **Wed. Dec 5 @ 12 noon.***