
TOPICS: UNDERSTANDING GENOCIDE in Spring 2021 (PY2091B)

Course Code	PY2091B	Professor(s)	Brian Schiff
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	Q-707
Class Schedule	M: 10:35-11:55 in PL-3 R: 15:20-16:40 in PL-3	Office Hours	Tuesdays 14h00-15h00 and by appointment
Credits	4	Email	bschiff@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	670

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of genocide studies with an emphasis on 20th century genocides and the Holocaust. The course will discuss the issues of definition and description of genocide, the precursors, and process of genocide. Students will have the opportunity to read the research literature and to explore historical instances of genocide and to engage with survivor testimony. A special focus will be placed on examining the social and psychological dynamics that lead to and support genocide.

Course Learning Outcomes

Through the close reading of texts by Freud and other materials, this course will help students --

- To understand the fundamentals of the psychoanalytic theory and practice of interpretation.
- To understand the relationships between theory and observation and their connection with clinical and other evidence.
- To understand the ways in which ideas developed in clinical contexts have given rise to large-scale theorizing.
- To describe the reciprocal influences of psychoanalytic theory and field observation.
- To understand the psychoanalytic theorization of the therapeutic encounter and patient-clinician relationships.
- To understand the importance psychoanalysis ascribes to sexuality in human development and relationships.

General Education

Course Outline

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1		
Jan 18	What is genocide?	
Jan 21	What is genocide?	Waller, "A crime without a name." UN Convention on Genocide Elements of Crimes
Week 2		
Jan 25	What is genocide?	UN Report—R2P UN Report—Framework of Analysis.
Jan 28	What is genocide?	Meierhenrich, Introduction.
Week 3		
Feb 1	Limits of language	Fein, Defining genocide as a sociological conce
Feb 4	Colonial genocide	Maybury-Lewis, Genocide against indigenous p
Week 4		
Feb 8	Mini-break	No class
Feb 11	Colonial genocide	Standard, Genocide in the Americas Lewy, Were the American Indians victims of gen
Week 5		
Feb 15	Race and nation	Weitz, A century of genocide.
Feb 18	Implicated subjects?	Hilberg, Preface. Levi, "The Grey Zone" Rothberg, From victims and perpetrators.
Week 6		
Feb 22	Presentations	Assignment #1—Risk Assessment
Feb 25	Mini-break	No class
Week 7		

Mar 1	Social and cultural perspectives	Roth, Social psychology and genocide.
Mar 4	Social and cultural perspectives	Fiske & Rai, Virtuous violence.
Week 8		
Mar 8	Armenian genocide	Bloxham, Cumulative radicalization.
Mar 11	Armenian genocide	Ungor, Seeing like a nation state.
Week 9		
Mar 15	Shoah	Browning, The Nazi empire.
Mar 18	Shoah	Bauman, Modernity and the Holocaust.
Week 10		
Mar 22	Shoah	de Swaan, Genocidal perpetrators.
Mar 25	Shoah	Gross, Neighbors.
Week 11		
Mar 29	Cambodia	Jackson, The ideology of total revolution.
Apr 1	Cambodia	Hinton, Why did you kill?
Week 12		
Apr 5	Easter Monday	No class
Apr 8	Former Yugoslavia	Bringa, Averted gaze.
Week 13		
Apr 12	Former Yugoslavia	Rauschenbach, Accused for involvement.
Apr 15	Tutsi genocide	Straus, The genocidaires.
Week 14		
Apr 19	Tutsi genocide	Mamdani, When victims become killers.
Apr 22	Tutsi genocide	Hatzfeld, The machete season.
Week 15		
Apr 26		
Final Exam		

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example, when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

Grading Policy

GRADING

The following course requirements will contribute to your final grade:

Attendance and participation	10%
Low stakes writing	20%
Risk Assessment	10%
Survivor Testimony	20%
Final paper	40%

Attendance and participation

I expect students to attend every class, whether virtually or in person. We will meet for a limited number of sessions and class time is my opportunity to help you think about the subject matter. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are experiencing a medical emergency or if there is a family crisis. Students who miss several classes will receive a lowered final grade. It is expected that students will arrive on time to every class. If a student is habitually late to class, late arrivals will count as absences. All readings are required. Assignments must be completed by the date indicated on the syllabus at the beginning of class. Students are expected to make relevant and thoughtful contributions to class discussion and activities. In determining your final grade, I will take into account your attendance, classroom and on-line conduct and your comprehension of the assigned readings as demonstrated in class discussion and activities. I reserve the option to give surprise quizzes and count quiz grades as a portion of exam grades.

Low stakes writing assignments

Every Thursday before class, students will hand a one-page reflection on the week's reading. A final grade will be based upon student's critical engagement with the readings and insightfulness. Low stakes assignments must be uploaded to blackboard on the morning that they are due.

Assignments

During the course of the semester, students will complete three assignments over the course of the semester: a risk assessment, an analysis of a survivor testimony, and a seminar paper. A detailed syllabus for course assignments will be given during the first weeks of class.

Professional behavior

Students are expected to maintain professional behavior in class. Students will be respectful of their fellow students and the instructor. Please come to class on time. If you are unavoidably late, please enter quietly and take the closest open seat to the door. Please do not use foul language in the classroom. During class, do not have private conversations, pass notes, text message, do your homework, or read. All electronic devices (such as computers, cell phones, blackberries, pagers, etc.) must be stored off your desk and respectfully turned off. If your attention needs to be elsewhere, then you shouldn't be in class.

Make up policy

I reserve the right to give NO CREDIT for late material. In order to make certain that you will receive credit for an assignment, you must contact me before the assignment is due. Please do not leave a message on my machine one minute before the final and expect to receive credit. In case of emergency, please contact me at the first moment possible to make certain that you receive credit for an assignment. If you have questions or problems with an assignment please come talk to me about it.

Academic dishonesty

Please take the time to learn about academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism includes handing in work that is not your own and cutting and pasting passages (from the internet, journals, books, etc.) without citing the original source. These are very serious academic offenses and could lead to an "F" in the course, suspension, or expulsion from the university. If I detect plagiarism, the least serious consequence is failing the course. Please keep in mind that I read for plagiarism and use technology that detects plagiarism. It is always better to hand in a poor paper than to plagiarize. I take these issues very seriously and will follow through with consequences for students who misrepresent the work of others as their own intellectual product. If you have a question about academic integrity, please contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss your question. Keep up with assignments and let me know if you need extra help. Don't get desperate—ask for help as early as you can! Helpful advice on avoiding plagiarism and the AUP policy can be found at <https://www.aup.edu/academics/academic-resources/academic-resource-center/academic-integrity>

Office hours

You are encouraged to visit me during the semester. My office hours should be used to ask questions, to deal with problems understanding the material and to discuss assignments. If you have a problem with an assignment or need extra help, I ask you to please speak with me as early as possible. I am very open to speaking with you and helping you progress in your work. If my posted office hours do not work, please e-mail me to make other arrangements.

Other
