

Gender, Genocide, and Mass Trauma

Sociology 4000/WMST 4010
T Th 3:30-4:45
Hellems 199

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This course investigates the relationship between gender, mass trauma and genocide. Over the semester, the course will explore genocide in diverse cultural and political settings, primarily focusing on the genocides of the twentieth century. Through an examination of the intersectionality of gender, race/ethnicity and religion, the course will begin with an examination of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe and Native American genocide in North America. The second part of the semester will look at the more recent genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda. In each of these areas of study, a feminist approach to mass violence will inform the readings and discussion of the course material. Readings for this class cover a vast expanse of literature, including historical analyses, empirical studies and personal narratives. Throughout the semester, the importance of collective memory will be brought to bear on the study of mass trauma and genocide.

Required Texts

Bergen, War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust

Jacobs, Memorializing the Holocaust: Gender, Genocide and Collective Memory

Ritter and Roth, Different Voices: Women and the Holocaust

Smith, Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide

Stiglmeier, Mass Rape: The War Against Women in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Strauss, The Order of Genocide

***Please note that in addition to the texts, there is an extensive body of required reading that has been placed on reserve in D2L.

Schedule of Topics and Assigned Readings

Introduction: Genocide and Mass Trauma: Toward a Sociological Definition

August 26-28: Fein, "Defining Genocide as a Sociological Concept" (on reserve);
Chalk and Jonassohn, "Introduction" (on reserve).

I. Medieval Roots of the Holocaust: The Vilification of Witches and Jews

Sept 2-4: Briggs, "A Witch Confesses" (on reserve); and Barstow, Chap 3.
"Witchcraze in Central Regions" (on reserve).

II. Twentieth Century European Genocide: The Holocaust and Gendered Violence

Sept. 9-16: Historical Perspective: Bergen, chaps 1-3, 5, 7;
Film "Night and Fog"

Sept. 18-25: Women and The Holocaust: Ritter and Roth, Chaps. 26, 13, 14; Milton, "Hidden Lives: Sinti and Roma Women" (on reserve); Ringelheim, "Split Memory" (on reserve); Film "Forgiving Mengele"

Sept. 30-Oct 7: Women Surviving Genocide; Ritter and Roth, 5, 9, 10, 11

October 9-16: Gender and Collective Memory: Jacobs, Introduction, chaps. 1, 2, 3

October 21 Midterm

III. Native American Genocide: The Legacy of U.S. Colonialism

October 23: Brave Heart and De Bruyn, "The American Indian Holocaust: Healing Historical Unresolved Grief" (on reserve); Smith, chap. 2

October 28-Nov 4 : Women, Sexual Abuse, and Forced Sterilization: Lawrence, "The Indian Health Service and the Sterilization of Women (on reserve): Smith, chaps. 3, 4, 7

IV. Global Mass Trauma: The Persistence of Genocide in Europe and Africa

November 6-Nov 13: Ethnic Cleansing and Mass Rape in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Stiglmayer, 1-34 and 54- 81; Boose, "Crossing the River Drina" (on reserve)
Film: "Rape: A Crime of War"

Nov 18-20: Victims, Perpetrators and Crimes of War in Bosnia: Stiglmayer, 82-173 and 197-218

December 2: Historical Perspective on Rwandan Genocide: Strauss, chaps. 1, 2, 6

December 4-11: Victims, Perpetrators and Crimes of War in Rwanda: Baines, "Body Politics and the Rwanda Crisis" (on reserve); Strauss, chap. 5; Hogg, "Women's Participation in the Rwanda Genocide" (on reserve); Koomen, "Without These The Tribunal Cannot Do Anything"

Course Requirements

The grade for this class is based on two essay exams, a mid-term (450 points) and final (550 points). In addition, students may choose to do two thought papers for extra credit. Each thought paper is worth a maximum of 40 points. The thought papers are due on specific dates which are listed below and will not be accepted at any other time. The following are the thought paper guidelines:

Guidelines for Extra Credit Thought Papers

Thought papers should be 5-6 pages long. The topic of the thought paper should be on a genocide or mass trauma that we have not studied in class. For example, Cambodia, Armenia, Bangladesh, Korean Comfort Women, and so on. The thought paper should be organized into three sections: Section I: Historical Background--give a brief historical background of the genocide; Section II: Gender Implications--discuss the gender aspects of the mass violence, its

impact on women and girls specifically; Section III: Responses to Violence and Genocide-- discuss war crimes trials and/or other political responses to the genocide. In this section you may also want to include your own thoughts on how women and targeted populations can best recover in the aftermath of mass violence. Do war crimes trials help in this recovery? What other remedies might be considered?

Schedule of Exams and Due Dates**

Midterm: (450 points): October 21

Final: (550 points): Dec. 17 1:30-3:30

Thought Paper Due Dates (in class)

Thought Paper # 1 November 4

Thought Paper #2 December 9

*Please note that because of grading schedules, these due dates are non-negotiable.

Class Content: Please be aware that the content of this class contains difficult and challenging material. If concerns or questions arise during the semester, please take advantage of my office hours to discuss any issues or concerns that you may have.

Course Policies

*The use of laptops, cell phones, or other electronic devices is not permitted in the class.

** There are no scheduled make-up exams for this course. Any absence from an exam will be graded "F" unless a written medical excuse is provided.

*** If an exam conflicts with religious observance, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester and arrangements will be made for a make-up examination.

****If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services (DS) early in the semester so that your needs may be addressed.

***** Civility and respect for other students is essential for a quality course experience.