

Sociology 4000/WMST 4010
Class time: T Th 11:00-12:15
EKCL E1B20

Professor Janet Jacobs
Office Hours: T 12:30-2:30
Honors, Norlin 4th fl
Jacobsjl@colorado.edu

TA: Tracy Sardone
Office Hours: Tu/Th 10:00-11:00
Ketchum 481
Tracy.FehrSardone@colorado.edu

Gender, Genocide and Mass Trauma

This course investigates the relationship among 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 focus on the twentieth century genocides of World War II, Bosnia, and Rwanda. Through an in-depth analysis of these three periods of mass violence and terror, the course will consider the ways in which gendered violence informs nationalist and state sanctioned genocide against targeted populations. The readings and theoretical approaches of the course material are derived from the burgeoning feminist scholarship in this area of study and will frame both the lecture material and class discussion. Readings for this class cover a vast expanse of literature, including historical analyses, empirical studies and personal narratives. The importance of collective memory and paths to justice in post genocide society will also be explored.

Required Texts

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

Jacobs, *Memorializing the Holocaust*

Randall, *Genocide and Gender in the Twentieth Century*

Ritter and Roth, *Different Voices: Women and the Holocaust*

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. These are indicated in the reading assignments below.

Schedule of Topics and Assigned Readings:

Introduction: Genocide and Mass Trauma: Toward a Working Definition

Jan 16-18: Chalk and Jonassohn, "Introduction" (on reserve); Lentin, "Introduction: Engendering Genocide" (on reserve); Randall, pp. 1-15.

I. Foreshadowing the Holocaust: Anti-Semitism in European Consciousness and Violence Against the Jews

January 23-25: Dundes, "The Ritual Murder or Blood Libel Legend" (on reserve); Bilewicz et. al. "Harmful Ideas, The Structure and Consequences of Anti-Semitic Beliefs in Poland (on reserve); Voigtlander and Voth, ""Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany" (on reserve)

II. The Holocaust and Gendered Violence

Jan 30-Feb 6: Historical Perspective: Bergen, chaps 1-3, 5, 7; Film “Night and Fog”

Feb 8-15: Women and The Holocaust: Ritter and Roth, chaps. 5, 6, 7, 9, 10; Milton, “Hidden Lives: Sinti and Roma Women” (on reserve); Levenkron, “Death and Maidens” (on reserve)

Feb 20-22: Women Surviving Genocide; Ritter and Roth, chap. 26; Weitzman, “Living on the Aryan Side in Poland: Gender Passing and the Nature of Resistance” (on reserve); Baumel, Social Interaction Among Jewish Women in Crisis during the Holocaust” (on reserve); Hajkova, “Sexual Barter in Times of Genocide” (on reserve).

III. The Holocaust and Collective Memory

Feb 27-March 6 Jacobs, chaps. 1, 2, 3, 6; Film ”Forgiving Mengele”

****March 8: Midterm**

IV. Ethnic Cleansing: The Bosnian Genocide

March 13-15: Historical Perspective and Theories of Gendered Violence: Sells, “Fire in the Pages” (on reserve); Siefert, “War and Rape” (on reserve)

March 20-22: Genocidal Rape and Children Born of Violence: Randall, chaps. 10, 11; Salzman, “Rape Camps as a Means of Ethnic Cleansing” (on reserve); Erjavec and Volcic, “Living with the Sins of Their Fathers: An Analysis of Self-Representations of Adolescents Born of War Rape” (on reserve); Film “ Calling Up the Ghosts”

V. The Rwandan Genocide

April 3-5: Historical Perspective: Scholz, “Hutu, Tutsi and The Germans” (on reserve); Strauss, Chaps. 1, 2, 6

April 10-17: Genocidal Rape and Children Born of Violence: Randall, chaps. 2, 6; Mullins, “Genocidal Rape in Rwanda as a State Crime,” (on Reserve); Mukangendo, “Caring for Children Born of Rape in Rwanda” (on reserve).

April 19-24: Gender and Perpetrators of Genocide: Strauss, chap. 5; Randall, 8

VI. Justice and Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Genocidal Rape in Bosnia and Rwanda

April 26-May 3: Randall, chap. 12; Kubai, “Between Justice and Reconciliation: The Survivors of Rwanda” (on reserve); Koomen, “Without These Women, the Tribunal Cannot Do Anything” (on reserve); Engle, “Feminism and Its (Dis)contents: Criminalizing Wartime Rape in Bosnia and Herzegovina (on reserve).

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, 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? The papers may be written using either ASA or APA guidelines. References must be included. On-line references are permitted but other sources should also be consulted.

Schedule of Exams and Due Dates*

Midterm: (450 points): March 8

Final: (550 points): May 9 4:30-7:00

Thought Paper Due Dates (in class)*

Thought Paper #1 February 27

Thought Paper #2 April 26

*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 and follow the Disability Services deadlines.

***** Civility and respect for other students are essential for a quality course experience. Professional courtesy and sensitivity to other students are especially important with respect to the difficult topics that this course covers.

*****Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code of the university.

Violations of this code, such as cheating, plagiarism, and aid of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty

member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).