

Psychology of Ethnic Conflict (LPSY 3005)
Spring 2009

Instructors: Bernhard Leidner leidnb82@newschool.edu
Patricia Slawuta slawp642@newschool.edu
Office: 80 Fifth Avenue, 7th Floor, Room 705
Phone: 1-(212)-229-5727 x3214

Meetings: Tuesdays 12pm – 1:40pm, 66 West 12th Street, room 410
Thursdays 12pm – 1:40pm, 66 West 12th Street, room 410

Course Objectives

This course examines the origin of conflicts between (ethnic) groups, specifically taking into account theories of the social sciences. What are the roots of conflicts? Are they inherent to human nature? How and why do conflicts escalate? Despite the increasing cooperation and efforts of the international community to stop violent conflicts (NATO, UN), many conflicts still escalate, leading to tragedies such as the ones in Darfur. We will approach these problems from different angles and draw conclusions for peacebuilding.

Course format

It is expected that the course will take the form of interactions. Students should participate actively in class by asking questions, making comments, and arguing when necessary. Students' participation will determine to a large extent how successful the course is; a systematic discussion of the ideas and empirical findings we read about is the best way to ensure the understanding of the topic at hand.

Ground Rules

Freedom: You are allowed to opt out of watching any videos or participating in any class discussions or activities that make you uncomfortable, as long as you let us know your reasons.

Confidentiality: Anything said in class is confidential unless you or we have obtained permission from the speaker to share what was said (e.g., "I liked what you said and was wondering if I could share it with my roommate").

Respect: You do not have to agree with what others say, but you should accord others a basic degree of respect. Reactions such as rolling your eyes, smirking, or making fun of a classmate are unacceptable. Class participation consists, in part, of helping other students share their points of view.

Grading

Exams: There will be two in-class, closed-book exams and in total will be worth 50% of your final grade. Exam I will be worth 25% of your grades and Exam II 25%. We will add 5% to your best result – so for example if your best results come from Exam II – this will be worth 30% of your final grade. Exams will be cumulative, covering all material from preceding lectures.

Class participation: Participation in class and completion of class exercises will be worth 30% of your grade. Therefore, the more you participate, the more likely you will do well in your exams and in the class overall.

Discussion questions: Twice a week, before every class (at the latest the night before class), students are required to post one discussion questions they would like to discuss in class, based on the readings/assignments for that class. A discussion question is understood to be more than a comprehension/clarification question; it should extend or go beyond the readings/assignments. This part of the class requirements is worth 20% and an important basis for successful class participation.

Communication

Email Policy: Feel free to email us or schedule a meeting via email.

For all email responses, please permit more than 24 hours before a response can be expected (e.g., you are unlikely to receive a response the night before an exam or assignment deadline).

Electronics: To show consideration for your fellow students and the instructors, please turn off and put away electronics that make sounds (e.g., phones, headsets). Laptop computers are welcomed for note taking purposes *only*. Also, no electronics will be allowed in any exam without special permission requested and granted prior to the exam.

Missed exams and/or assignments: If you *do* have a valid reason to miss an exam you must inform one of us the day before the exam (no later). If you are ill or cannot access your e-mail yourself for other reasons, please have your caregiver or friend contact us. Valid documentation must be provided as soon as possible. The make-up exam will be scheduled within the shortest time period possible (within a few days to a week). Make-up exams cannot be provided after several weeks have passed, nor during the last week of classes. A new exam will be created for you, and the exam may be in any form (e.g., essay or oral exam). Also, avoid being late for exams. You will not be allowed to begin an exam if anyone has already completed the exam and left the room.

Policy on Attendance and Lateness

Absences justify some grade reduction and a total of four absences mandate a reduction of one letter grade for the course.

More than four absences mandate a failing grade for the course, unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as the following:

- an extended illness requiring hospitalization or visit to a physician (with documentation)
- a family emergency, e.g. serious illness (with written explanation)

- observance of a religious holiday.

The attendance and lateness policies are enforced as of the first day of classes for all registered students. If registered during the first week of the add/drop period, the student is responsible for any missed assignments and coursework. For significant lateness, the instructors may consider the tardiness as an absence for the day. Students failing a course due to attendance should consult with an academic advisor to discuss options.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's work as one's own in all forms of academic endeavor (such as essays, theses, examinations, research data, creative projects, etc), intentional or unintentional. Plagiarized material may be derived from a variety of sources, such as books, journals, internet postings, student or faculty papers, etc. This includes the purchase or “outsourcing” of written assignments for a course. A detailed definition of plagiarism in research and writing can be found in the fourth edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, pages 26-29. Procedures concerning allegations of plagiarism and penalties are set forth in the Lang catalog.

Disabilities

In keeping with the University's policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student requesting accommodations must first meet with Student Disability Services. Jason Luchs or a designee from that office will meet with students requesting accommodations and related services, and if appropriate, provide an Academic Adjustment Notice for the student to provide to his or her instructors. The instructor is required to review the letter with the student and discuss the accommodations, provided the student brings the letter to the attention of the instructor. This letter is necessary in order for classroom accommodations to be provided. Student Disability Services is located at 79 Fifth Avenue - 5th Floor. The phone number is (212) 229-5626. Students and faculty are expected to review the Student Disability Services webpage. The webpage can be found at <http://www.newschool.edu/studentaffairs/disability/> and the office is available to answer any questions or concerns.

Schedule

SESSION	DATE	TOPIC
1	Jan-27	Introduction: Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, Universal Declaration of Human Rights
2	Jan-29	Origins of Intergroup Conflict From Different Perspectives
3	Feb-03	Facilitating Genocide I: Dehumanization (guest speaker: Dr. Stephen Loughnan, University of Melbourne, Australia)

4	Feb-05	Cancelled (no class)
5	Feb-10	Facilitating Genocide II: Moral Disengagement
6	Feb-12	Genocide: Done By A Few Psychopaths or the Evil Lurking in All of Us?
7	Feb-17	Facilitating Genocide III: Nationalism
8	Feb-19	Holocaust Denial and Confronting It
9	Feb-24	Conflict Analysis: When Do We Call It 'Genocide'?
10	Feb-26	The Armenian Genocide(?)
11	Mar-03	International Justice I: Nuremberg
12	Mar-05	International Justice II: Beyond Nuremberg
13	Mar-10	Can Genocide Be Forgiven?
14	Mar-12	Movie
15	Mar-17	Spring Break (no class)
16	Mar-19	Spring Break (no class)
17	Mar-24	Movie Discussion and Midterm Review
18	Mar-26	Midterm
19	Mar-31	History of Rwanda(n Genocide)
20	Apr-02	Intergroup Threat
21	Apr-07	Intergroup Emotions and Hate Speeches

22	Apr-09	Why Did We Let Rwanda Happen? I: Perpetrators, Victims, and the Role of Bystanders
23	Apr-14	Why Did We Let Rwanda Happen? II: Ongoing Genocides as Paralyzing Reminders of Past Genocides
24	Apr-16	Reconciliation
25	Apr-21	Conflict Analysis: Yugoslavia
26	Apr-23	Never Again? Darfur Now!
27	Apr-28	Stopping Ongoing Genocide
28	Apr-30	Preventing Future Genocide (guest speaker: Joshua Brook, U.N. Attorney)
29	May-05	Movie
30	May-07	Movie Discussion and Final Review
31	May-12	Final
32	May-14	Summary & Conclusions

BIBLIOGRAPHY

January 27th: Introduction: Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, and Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2007). *Totally unofficial: Raphael Lemkin and the Genocide Convention*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (pp. XIV-XV)
2. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2007). *Totally unofficial: Raphael Lemkin and the Genocide Convention*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (reading 2, “Crimes against individuals as members of a larger group”, pp. 9-16)
3. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2007). *Totally unofficial: Raphael Lemkin and the Genocide Convention*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (reading 3, “A crime without a name”, pp. 17-27)
4. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2007). *Totally unofficial: Raphael Lemkin and the Genocide Convention*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (reading 5, “Negotiating the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”, pp. 33-41)
5. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2007). *Totally unofficial: Raphael Lemkin and the Genocide Convention*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (reading 6, “International law in the age of genocide”, pp. 42-50)
6. The legal definition of genocide: <http://www.preventgenocide.org/genocide/officialtext-printerfriendly.htm>
7. Crimes Against Humanity, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Part 2, Article 7: <http://www.preventgenocide.org/law/icc/statute/part-a.htm> (scroll down to “Part 2: Jurisdiction, Admissibility, and Applicable Law”, “Article 7: Crimes against humanity”)
8. Universal Declaration of Human Rights: <http://www.udhr.org/UDHR/default.htm>

January 29th: Origins of Intergroup Conflict From Different Perspectives

Read two of the following five readings (the first one, to be read by everybody, and one of the other four, as assigned in class).

For the one theory you were assigned to, answer the following questions:

- a) What are the main tenets/assumptions of the theory you were assigned to?
- b) How would you explain (origin and course of) intergroup conflicts with this theory?
- c) What are, in your opinion, the shortcomings/limitations of this theory when it comes to explaining intergroup conflicts?

Be prepared to explain the theory and present your answers to the above questions to your classmates in about five minutes!

If you have any questions, ask us! (best a day or at least a few hours before class, via email or meeting at our office)

For everybody to read:

9. Hewstone, M., & Greenland, K. (2000). Intergroup conflict. *International Journal of*

Psychology, 35(2), 136-144.

Only for Social Identity Theory experts:

10. Gibson, J. L. (2006). Do strong group identities fuel intolerance? Evidence from the South African case. *Political Psychology*, 27(5), 665-705.

Only for Realistic Conflict Theory experts:

11. Moghaddam, F. M. (2008). The materialist view: From realistic conflict theory to evolutionary psychology. In F. M. Moghaddam (Ed.), *Multiculturalism and intergroup relations: Psychological implications for democracy in global context* (p. 65-88). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Only for Terror Management Theory experts:

12. Pyszczynski, T., Abdollahi, A., Solomon, S., Greenberg, J., Cohen, F., & Weise, D. (2006). Mortality Saliency, Martyrdom, and Military Might - The Great Satan Versus the Axis of Evil. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 32(4), 525-537.

Only for Optimal Distinctiveness Theory experts:

13. Optimal distinctiveness: Brewer, M. B. (1996). When contact is not enough: Social identity and intergroup cooperation. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 20(3-4), 291-303.

February 3rd: Facilitating Genocide I: Dehumanization (guest speaker)

14. Reicher, S., Haslam, S. A., & Rath, R. (2008). Making a virtue of evil: A five-step social identity model of the development of collective hate. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 2/3, 1313-1344.

February 5th: No Class (but watch the movie below instead!)

15. Watch documentary “Memory of the Camps”, from PBS’s Frontline series (56 min). Download video files from Blackboard.

February 10th: Facilitating Genocide II: Moral Disengagement

16. Bandura, A. (1999). Moral disengagement in the perpetration of inhumanities. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 3, 193-209.

February 12th: Genocide: Done By A Few Psychopaths or the Evil Lurking in All of Us?

17. Reich, W. (1992). The men who pulled the triggers. *The New York Times*, April 12, 1992.
18. Browning, C. R. (1992). *Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the final solution in Poland*. New York, NY: Aaron Asher Books/HarperCollins Publishers. (ch. 5, “Police Battalion 101”, pp. 38-48)
19. Waller, J. (2002). *Becoming evil: How ordinary people commit genocide and mass killing*. Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press. (ch. 3, “The ‘Mad Nazi’: Psychopathology, personality, and extraordinary evil”, pp. 55-87)

February 17th: Facilitating Genocide III: Nationalism

20. Conversi, D. (2005). Nationalism. In D. L. Shelton (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of genocide and crimes against humanity*. Framington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference.
21. Conversi, D. (2006). Genocide, ethnic cleansing, and nationalism. In G. Delanty & K. Kumar (Eds.), *Handbook of nations and nationalism* (p. 319-333). London: Sage Publications.

February 19th: Holocaust Denial and Confronting It

22. Lipstadt, D. (2005). Denying the Holocaust. BBC, January 4, 2005.
23. Holthouse, D. (2008). State of denial: Turkey spends millions to cover up Armenian genocide. Southern Poverty Law Center, Intelligence Report, Summer 2008.
24. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2007). Denial and the Holocaust. In Facing History and Ourselves (Eds.), *Holocaust and human behavior* (p. 490-493). Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc.
25. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2007). The first amendment and denial. In Facing History and Ourselves (Eds.), *Holocaust and human behavior* (p. 494-497). Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc.

February 24th: Conflict Analysis: When Do We Call It ‘Genocide’?

26. Stanton, G. H. (1996). The 8 stages of genocide. Briefing paper presented at the U.S. State Department.
27. Hull & Cawthorne (2008). Kenya bloodshed leads to accusations of genocide. Reuters, January 3, 2008.

February 26th: The Armenian Genocide(?)

28. Holthouse, D. (2008). The Armenian genocide in history. Southern Poverty Law Center, Intelligence Report, Summer 2008.
29. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2004). *Crimes against humanity and civilization: The genocide of the Armenians*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (ch. 4, “Genocide”, pp. 81-111)
30. Watch online: PBS documentary “The Armenian Genocide”:
<http://www.guba.com/watch/2000953523>

March 3rd: International Justice I: Nuremberg

31. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2007). *Totally unofficial: Raphael Lemkin and the Genocide Convention*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (reading 4, “Lemkin and the Nuremberg trials”, pp. 28-32)

March 5th: International Justice II: Beyond Nuremberg

32. Watch the second talk in the video “The Origins of the WCRS 3 - Genocide Convention -

- From Nuremberg to Lake Success” (download video in Blackboard).
33. Sheridan, B. (2008). Trials without borders. Newsweek, January 10, 2008.

March 10th: Can Genocide Be Forgiven?

34. Friedlander, A. (2001). Is forgiveness possible? A Jewish perspective. BBC, January 1, 2001.

March 12th: Movie – no readings

March 17th: Spring Break – No Class

March 19th: Spring Break – No Class

March 24th: Movie Discussion and Midterm Review – no readings

March 26th: Midterm – no readings

March 31st: History of Rwanda(n Genocide)

35. Watch PBS documentary “Ghosts of Rwanda”. Download video files from Blackboard.
36. Cohen, J. (1994). *On the trail of genocide*. New York Times, September 7, 1994.
37. Waller, J. (2007). *Becoming evil: How ordinary people commit genocide and mass killing*. New York: Oxford University Press. (pp. 221-229)

April 2nd: Intergroup Threat

38. Savage, R. (2007). "Disease Incarnate": Biopolitical discourse and genocidal dehumanisation in the age of modernity, *Journal of Historical Sociology*, 20(3), 404-440.

April 7th: Intergroup Emotions and Hate Speeches

39. Vollhardt, J., Coutin, M., Staub, E., Weiss, G., & Deflander, J. (2007). Deconstructing hate speech in the DRC: A psychological media sensitization campaign. *Journal of Hate Studies*, 5, 15-36.

April 9th: Why Did We Let Rwanda Happen? I: Perpetrators, Victims, and the Role of Bystanders

40. LeBor, A. (2006). “Complicity with Evil.” *The United Nations in the Age of Modern Genocide*. New York: Yale University Press. (Part 1, pp. 23-132, on Srebrenica)

April 14th: Why Did We Let Rwanda Happen? II: Ongoing Genocides as Paralyzing Reminders of Past Genocides

41. Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd. (2008). Apology to Australia's indigenous peoples, Speech given at House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra, on February 13, 2008.
42. Bevan, R. (2007). *The Destruction of Memory. Architecture at War*. London: Reaktion Books. (ch. 2, "Cultural Cleansing: Who Remembers the Armenians?" pp. 25-60)

April 16th: Reconciliation

43. Kromer, S. K. (2005). The Rwandan Reconciliation. *Washington Post*, October 16, 2005.
44. Zorbas, E. (2004). Reconciliation Post-Genocide Rwanda. *African Journal of Legal Studies*, 1(1), 29-52.

April 21st: Conflict Analysis: Yugoslavia

45. Peterson, D. (2002). *Understanding Ethnic Violence*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (pp. 208-224)

April 23rd: Never Again? Darfur Now!

46. Watch online: PBS documentary "Darfur, On Our Watch":
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/darfur/>
47. De Waal, Alex (2007). Reflections on the Difficulties of Defining Darfur's Crisis as Genocide. *The Harvard Human Rights Journal*, 20(25), 25-33.

April 28th: Stopping Ongoing Genocide

48. Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (2007). *Totally unofficial: Raphael Lemkin and the Genocide Convention*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, Inc. (reading 1, "Sovereignty cannot be conceived as the right to kill millions", pp. 2-8)
49. Watch video "Preventing Mass Atrocities – A Reality With Gareth Evans" (59 min). Download video file from Blackboard.

April 30th: Preventing Future Genocide (guest speaker)

50. Waller, J. (2002). *Becoming evil: How ordinary people commit genocide and mass killing*. Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press. (ch. 9, "Conclusion", pp. 281-298)

May 5th: Movie – no readings

May 7th: Movie Discussion and Final Review – no readings

May 12th: Final – no readings

May 14th: Summary and Conclusions – no readings

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