

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**  
**Department of Sociology and Criminology**  
**SOC 3860: Genocide, Crime and Society (A01)**  
**1:00-2:15pm, Tuesday and Thursday**  
**Winter 2019 (3 Credit Hours)**  
**215 Tier**

**Instructor:** Andrew Woolford  
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**Office Hours:** By Appointment  
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**Course Objectives:**

In the immediate aftermath of World War II the nations of the world promised to “never again” stand idly by in the face of genocide. Since this time genocides have proliferated. Although the term “genocide” is of recent vintage, the phenomenon has a long and inglorious history. This course examines the study of and debates around the notion of genocide. Beginning with definitions and theoretical explanations of genocide, the course moves through various case studies to foster understanding of the motivations, contexts, and processes that result in group destruction. It concludes with examination of the prospects for preventing, stopping, adjudicating, and healing from genocidal devastation. In all its moments, the phenomena of genocide will be examined in this course through a sociological and criminological lens, while drawing on other disciplines such as law, social psychology, political studies, anthropology, conflict resolution, and history in order to situate genocide within a broader multi-disciplinary framework. As well, in reviewing course materials, we will be attentive to arguments about genocide in Canada. By the end of the class students should be able to:

- Understand the nature of genocide as a “contested topic” and demonstrate familiarity with the key debates concerning the definition of genocide.
- Understand the formation and application of international law on genocide.
- Apply genocide studies concepts, theoretical insights, and multi-disciplinary perspectives to key case studies.
- Critically engage with the prospects for genocide prevention, commemoration, and justice.
- Reflect on the relevance of the genocide concept to settler colonialism in Canada.

**Required Readings:**

- Jens Meierhenrich. 2014. *Genocide: A Reader*. Oxford University Press (available from the University Bookstore).
- TRC of Canada, Final Summary Report:  
[http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Honouring\\_the\\_Truth\\_Reconciling\\_for\\_the\\_Future\\_July\\_23\\_2015.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Honouring_the_Truth_Reconciling_for_the_Future_July_23_2015.pdf).

**Assignments and Grades:**

Participation:	10%
Genocide Media/Activism Assignment	20%
Exam 1 (in class)	20%

Book Review Assignment	30%
Exam 2 (Take-Home)	20%

**Class Participation (10%):**

Class participation is a key component of the course. Students are expected to be present for each class, be prepared by having read all assigned readings beforehand, participate in weekly discussion groups, and be non-disruptive members of the class (e.g., avoid conversations with neighbours, cell phone calls, and non-class-related internet use). Participation scores are based upon all of these factors, although an automatic 0% for participation will be assigned to students who regularly miss class (i.e., more than 4 unexcused absences). Students should also be aware of the University's policy on unexcused absences from the University Calendar's General Academic Regulations:

*1. Attendance at Class and Debarment*

- *Regular attendance is expected of all students in all courses.*
- *An instructor may initiate procedures to debar a student from attending classes and from final examinations and/or from receiving credit where unexcused absences exceed those permitted by the faculty or school regulations.*
- *A student may be debarred from class, laboratories, and examinations by action of the dean/director for persistent non-attendance, failure to produce assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor, and/or unsafe clinical practice or practicum. Students so debarred will have failed that course.*

Also, please note the University policy on disruptions:

- *Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.*

**Genocide Media/Activism Assignment (20%)**

Using a search engine such as Google or Google News, find a newspaper article or online petition that applies the term "genocide" to a current or previous world event (e.g., starvation in Yemen, ISIS attacks on the Yezidi or Ezidi, the Rohingya in Myanmar, "cultural genocide" or genocide in Canada, or ongoing group destruction in Burundi, South Sudan or Darfur). Write a 2 to 3 page (double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman Font, 1-inch margins) summary/discussion of the event that addresses the following issues:

- 1) What specific acts or set of acts is referred to as genocide?
- 2) Who is making the charge that genocide has taken or is taking place?
- 3) Is mention made of anyone who counters this claim of genocide? If so, who, and on what basis do they contest the charge of genocide?

- 4) Based on what you have learned, and drawing from a specific definition of genocide, as well as concepts and ideas from your course materials, explain why you do or do not feel this event deserves the label “genocide”.
- 5) What action or response is suggested by the author of the article/petition or by those cited or quoted therein, if any? Do you support this action? Why or why not?

You want to choose an article that allows you to address these questions, so an in-depth newspaper or magazine article is preferred. Outside sources, other than your selected article and course materials, are not required for this assignment, though you may choose to make cite such material. All citations, whether to outside sources or course materials, should be made using a recognized referencing system.

This assignment must be submitted through UM Learn by 11:59pm on **February 5, 2019**. Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day with weekends counting as 2 days.

**Exam 1 (in class) (20%):**

On **February 26, 2019** an in-class exam will be held. The exam will feature 20 multiple-choice questions. Students will also be required to answer 4 of 5 short, paragraph-length-answer questions.

**Book Review (30%):**

A 6-8 page book review essay on the first three sections of *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada* (pp. 1-134), as well as the “Calls to Action” (pp. 319-338) is due on **April 2, 2019** (submitted through UM Learn by 11:59pm). A more detailed handout will be distributed within the first 2 weeks of class. Late reviews will be penalized 3% per day with weekends counting as 2 days.

**Exam 2 (take-home) (20%):**

On **April 9, 2019** a take-home exam of 4 questions will be distributed in class. Students are required to write short, critical and argumentative essays on 2 of the 4 questions. Take-home exams must be submitted electronically using the UM Learn system by no later than **April 16, 2019**. Late exams will be penalized 10% per day with weekends counting as 2 days.

(Note: Students must inform the instructor of an absence prior to the test or assignment due date, or prior to missed discussion groups. Students must provide a documented reason [e.g., Dr.’s note] for their absence/inability to meet the deadline within one week if a due date or discussion group is missed).

(Also Note: Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.)

**Academic Integrity:**

Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, (“**Personation at Examinations**” (Section 5.2.9) and “**Plagiarism and cheating**” (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student

Resources web

site: [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student\\_resources/student\\_responsibilities\\_integrity.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html).

Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

Also keep in mind:

- *The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is **suspected of being plagiarized** to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.*
- *The minimum penalty for plagiarism on a written assignment is F on the paper and may result in and F-DISC (discipline) in the course. This notation appears on the student's transcript. For repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period of up to 1 year.*
- *The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty in a test or final examination is F for the test/examination, and an F-DISC (discipline) in the course plus a suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period of one year. The F grade and disciplinary notation appears on the student's transcript. For repeat violations, the penalty may include suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period of up to 5 years*

### **Course Rules and Regulations:**

- The University of Manitoba acknowledges the right of students to observe recognized Holy Days of their faith that fall within the academic year. The instructor should be notified in writing of a student's intended absence at least three weeks in advance (when possible).
- Students with special learning needs should identify themselves to the instructor and register with the Office of Student Accessibility at the beginning of term to arrange suitable accommodation.
- All assignments must be completed in order for the instructor to assign a final grade. Students who fail to complete all parts of the course will fail the course.
- Any student who submits a paper that the professor suspects is plagiarized must submit to an oral examination based on the material in the assignment or paper. Should the professor find that the paper has been plagiarized the student will face immediate disciplinary action (see section on Academic Integrity above).

### **Grading:**

Cut-off points for converting percentage grades into letter grades:

A+: 100- 90%	A: 89-80%	B+: 79-75%	B: 74-70%
C+: 69-65%	C: 64-60%	D: 59 - 50%	F: below 50%

### **Course Outline:**

January 8 and January 10: Section 1: Introduction to Genocide Studies

Reading: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 3-55

January 15 to January 17: Section 2: Definitions and Concepts

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 56-75

January 22 to January 24: Section 3: New Definitions and Conceptual Revisions

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 75-104

January 29 to January 31: Section 4: Explaining Genocide Perpetration – Early Cases

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 105-134

**\* Genocide Media/Activism Assignment due February 5, 2019 \***

February 5 to February 7: Section 5: Explaining Genocide Perpetration – Post World War II

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 135-170

February 12 to February 14: Section 6: Explaining Genocide Conditions – Early Cases

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 171-236

**\*Reading Week February 18 to 22, 2019 \***

**\* Exam 1 (in class): February 26, 2019\***

February 28 to March 7: Section 7: Explaining Genocide Conditions – Post World War II

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 236-252

March 12 and March 14: Section Eight: Genocide's Aftermath

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 277-315

March 19 and March 21: Section Nine: Genocide and Justice

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 316-360

March 26 and March 28: Section Ten: Dealing with Genocide

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 365-376, 381-397, 398-421

**\*Book Review due on April 2, 2019\***

April 2 and April 4: Section Eleven: Prevention and Reconciliation

Readings: *Genocide: A Reader*, pp. 427-465, 470-473, 477-486

**\*Exam 2 (take-home) distributed on April 9, 2019 and due on April 16, 2019\***

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is March 20, 2019. Students will have results for the Genocide Media/Activism Assignment and Exam 1 before this date.