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# RELIGION AND GENOCIDE

REL 410 Section 001

Spring 2016, Seminar

Dr. Steven Jacobs

## Office Hours and Contact Information

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Office Hours: **Tuesday & Thursday, Before 9:30 (By Apt.), 11:00-12:15, & By Appt.**

## Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites

No prerequisites or none listed.

One (1) course in *either* Religious Studies *or* Judaic Studies or Permission of the Instructor.

## Course Description

UA Course Catalog Information

Catalog description not available.

This course explores genocide by examining its relationship to the religion in both its institutional and theological frameworks. Both historical & contemporary examples are examined to ascertain whether or not there are religious components to genocide. The format of the course is lectures, discussions of readings, student presentations, and, where appropriate, video and other materials.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will determine whether or not there exists a *relationship of significance* between that which we commonly identify as Religion--in either or both its institutional forms and/or its intellectual/theological components--and Genocide through an examination of specific readings, presentations, and discussions, viewing of documentary films and other materials, and sharing research papers and/or creative projects.
2. Students will examine specific examples of known historical and contemporary genocides by critically ascertaining whether or not Religion is a "participating factor" in the perpetration of such genocides through an examination of specific readings, viewing of documentary films and other materials, class discussions, research papers, and/or creative projects.
3. Students will attempt a postive prognosis as to the role of Religion, both institutionally and intellectually, for both the present and the future by critically examining and discussing what various scholars have offered to resolve this issue and reflected in the Final Exam essay questions.
4. Students will pursue independent research through either a Research Paper or Creative Project and improve both their research and writing skills.
5. Students will pursue their public speaking skills by presenting both Chapter Presentations of various texts and their own Research Papers or Creative Projects.

## Required Texts

### UA Supply Store Textbook Information

- JACOBS / CONFRONTING GENOCIDE **(Required)**
- JACOBS (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) CONFRONTING GENOCIDE **(RENTAL)**
- TREBINCEVIC, KENAN / THE BOSNIA LIST: A MEMOIR OF WAR, EXILE, AND RETURN **(Required)**
- TREBINCEVIC, KENAN (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) THE BOSNIA LIST: A MEMOIR OF WAR, EXILE, AND RETURN **(RENTAL)**
- GALLOWAY, STEVEN (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) THE CELLIST OF SARAJEVO **(RENTAL)**
- GALLOWAY, STEVEN / THE CELLIST OF SARAJEVO **(Required)**
- MEIERHENRICH, JENS / GENOCIDE: A READER **(Required)**
- MEIERHENRICH, JENS (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) GENOCIDE: A READER **(RENTAL)**
- BARTROP, PAUL / GENOCIDE: THE BASICS **(Required)**
- BARTROP, PAUL (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) GENOCIDE: THE BASICS **(RENTAL)**
- APSEL, JOYCE (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) GENOCIDE MATTERS:ONGOING ISSUES AND EMERGING PERSPECTIVES **(RENTAL)**
- APSEL, JOYCE / GENOCIDE MATTERS:ONGOING ISSUES AND EMERGING PERSPECTIVES **(Required)**

## Other Course Materials

Additional course materials during the semester will be supplied by the instructor.

## Outline of Topics

1. What is Religion?
2. What is Genocide?
3. Scriptural Warrants for Genocide
4. Examination of Historical Genocides
5. Examination of Contemporary Genocides
6. Breaking the Cycle of Genocide Violence

## Exams and Assignments

1. **Response Papers:** 3-5 page responses to *both* Galloway, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, and Trebinčević, *The Bosnia List*.
2. **Research Paper OR Creative Project** on the relationship between Religion and Genocide. Topic of Choice (cleared with instructor first), minimum of six (6) sources.
3. **Chapter Presentations:** Two oral *and* written handouts from Bartrop, Apsel & Verdeja, Jacobs, *and* Meierhenrich
4. **Final Exam:** Take-home, distributed the last day of class and due when scheduled. 4/10 essay-questions.

## Grading Policy

20% = Response Papers (10% each)

20% = Chapter Presentations (10% each)

30% = Research Paper or Creative Project

30 % = Final Exam

+ **Extra-Credit Opportunities**

## Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

All make-up work is to be determined in consultation with the instructor.

## Attendance Policy

Attendance is *required* unless otherwise noted in the syllabus.

## Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

**The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:**

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvuatv.com/content/weather>. WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone. Check <http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts> for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

## Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University."

See the [Code of Student Conduct](#) for more information.

## Emergency Contact Information

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at [www.ua.edu](http://www.ua.edu). In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

## Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 1000 Houser Hall to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 1000 Houser Hall, before receiving academic adjustments.

## UAct: Ethical Community Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (<http://www.ua.edu/uact>) provides a list of reporting channels that can be used to report incidences of illegal discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence, retaliation, threat assessment or fraud.