



UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI SIENA
FACOLTA' DI LETTERE E FILOSOFIA
CORSO DI LAUREA IN SCIENZE DELLA COMUNICAZIONE
Master in Human Rights and Genocide Studies

31 May – 8 June
MODULE TITLE: Prevention of Genocide

Module leader: Prof. Marcello Flores
Email: flores@unisi.it

Also teaching on this module :

Prof. Andrea Bartoli,	e-mail : abartoli@gmu.edu
Prof. Enzo M. Le Fevre Cervini,	e-mail : enzo.lefevre@peacedevelopment.eu
Prof. Marialaura Marinozzi,	e-mail : marialaurams@yahoo.it
Prof. Alberto Cutillo,	e-mail : alberto.cutillo@yahoo.it
Prof. Wiktor Osiatynski	e-mail : w_osiat@it.com.pl
Prof. Giovanni Gozzini	e-mail : gozzini@unisi.it
Prof. Steve Paulsson	e-mail : gspaulsson@gmail.com
Prof. Philip Spencer	e-mail : P.Spencer@kingston.ac.uk
Prof. Roberto Martinelli	e-mail : martinellir47@yahoo.it

OUTLINE SYLLABUS

The course will start with an overview of the problems and debates related to the universality of human rights. It discusses the original consensus about human rights in 1948 and the break down of the consensus since 1970s. It also analyzes the attempts to enforce human rights and prevent genocide by international measures and international courts. It discusses the differences and similarities between human rights and humanitarian law. The lecture ends with the suggestion that while the philosophy of human rights is not nevertheless universal human rights as a system of norms remains universal.

Despite the significant progress, the second half of the 20th century has, unfortunately, witnessed several genocides and mass atrocities even after the Holocaust. That fact stresses the need to continue the efforts to fill the gap between the political will for preventing genocide and establishing the necessary international mechanisms for effective operations. Recent research shows and makes evident that, even if escalation to mass violence often happens swiftly, the progression of events toward genocide is gradual, and that the months from initial threat to full genocide offer ample warning time for the international community to take preventive action. It means that genocide is preventable! The international community should make use of this fact to increase the efficiency of its activities in this field.

One of the seminars held by a professor with a diplomatic career in Hungary, will focus on the attitude of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of this Republic on the study/research on Prevention of Genocide:

At the First Budapest Human Rights Forum on the 28th of August 2008 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary announced the decision of the Hungarian Government to prepare a Feasibility Study on the establishment of a Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities in Budapest. By launching this initiative the Government of Hungary wished to promote the cause of prevention of genocide on the occasion of commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Centre will represent the first solid attempt to institutionalize the prevention of genocide; an European initiative, with global inputs and global actors, able to bridge the gap between early warning and early action.

A part of this module will be dedicated to the new R2P (Responsibility to Protect) concept: considering that "genocide" was a stop-gap and poorly defined, and that R2P, which is rooted in social contract theory, at least has more solid intellectual foundations. However it is still a new concept in the international sphere, has not yet given rise to any concrete action or legislation, and is potentially even more vague than "genocide", as well as facing exactly the same practical and political obstacles. A preliminary survey of the origins of the genocide convention, its limited successes and many failures is a good beginning for this part of the course lecture; R2P emerges as a "solution" that is intellectually elegant but still entirely hypothetical. The segment of the R2P course will cover from Rwanda to the 2005 UN World Summit, where R2P was agreed on as a concept, and then throw the question "where do we go from here" open to the class.

Alongside this final part of the course, students will look back at the demands placed by the Convention on the "International Community" and the ways in which has met or failed to meet its obligations. We will look in particular at the recurrence of genocide since the Holocaust and the repeated failure to intervene and some of the different explanations offered for this. A number of cases will be examined to see, both of cases where there was no intervention and cases where there was intervention, and the justifications given for both within what remains a predominantly national (or nationalist) frame of reference and discuss whether or not it is possible or desirable to move beyond this.

AIMS: The specific aims of this module are:

- To provide students with an appropriate balance of academic and practical knowledge in the principal areas of Crimes of War and Genocide through the study of contemporary issues and the definitions of different scholars
- To provide students with a critical overall view of the historiography of and social science approaches to genocide
- To critically analyse the Holocaust and Armenian Genocide (as case studies)
- To develop student awareness of the crime, denial of genocide and their lasting effect in our times

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

- reflect critically upon the historical, sociological and political underpinnings of War crimes and determine for themselves the likely nature and extent of war crimes theory and practice
- be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the systematic nature of the genocides, with particular emphasis on the Armenian genocide and Holocaust
- demonstrate an awareness that there is an emerging right to reparation for past massive violations of human rights, which includes the right of access to the historical truth and that this may be the most effective tool to ensure non repetition of such crimes
- Research and present a reasoned analysis of a major contemporary social and political dimension of genocide and crimes of war

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

This module will take place from 31st of May, to the 8th of June. There will be a mixture of lectures and seminars. Lectures will be devoted to identifying issues, elucidating concepts and sketching historical and political contexts. Particular attention will be given to the definitions in the different disciplines and to the historical development of the juridical context. Seminars in the first part of the module will be devoted to class discussions of debates relating to general issues identified in the accompanying lectures.

Seminars, usually taking place in the afternoons will take the form of workshops on case studies and in some cases will involve students in group presentations. The subject of the seminars will examine many cases of what has been described as genocide, through the structures (and the documentation, including memoirs) of perpetrators, victims, bystanders and beneficiaries, specifically on the Armenian Genocide and Holocaust case studies. Seminars will further develop the case study framework and will enable detailed exploration of a range of specific issues and themes of the conflict and will enable students to reinforce their knowledge and critical understanding through theoretical and applied analysis. Lessons will strengthen the link between the historical comprehension and the contemporary debate on negationism and denial of genocides.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:

Assessment is based on a single essay of 3000-3500 words, which will allow students the opportunity to reflect on the entire module; on the experience of performing work-related tasks based on the issues arising in the first half of the module and related reading, and on the discussion of issues arising from the seminar discussion of one or more case studies.

ESSAY TOPICS

You may develop your own essay question to answer but this must be approved by Prof. Marcello Flores before the end of teaching.

1. How and when, if the Convention on Genocide had already been passed, could the international community have prevented the genocides of Armenians and Jews?
2. How much of an obstacle is a nationalist frame of reference for the repeated failure to halt or prevent genocide and can any realistic alternative be developed?

PROGRAMME:

May 31

Prof. Andrea Bartoli

Prof. Wiktor Osiatynski

June 1

Prof. Andrea Bartoli

Prof. Wiktor Osiatynski,

Prof. Enzo M. Le Fevre Cervini

June 3

Prof. Marcello Flores

Dott.ssa Marialaura Marinozzi

Prof. Alberto Cutillo

June 4

Prof. Giovanni Gozzini

Dott.ssa Marialaura Marinozzi

June 7

Prof. Steve Paulsson

Prof. Philip Spencer

June 8

Prof. Philip Spencer

Prof. Steve Paulsson

Seminar/workshop Prof. Roberto MARTINELLI

CURRICULUM CONTENT:

- The Universality of Human Rights and anti-Genocide Measures

- A European initiative for the construction of a global architecture for the prevention of genocide
- The Armenian massacre seen as a genocide precedent
- Collective reading and discussion of the UN genocide convention through the Oxford Commentaries on International law
- Recent historical research on Shoah: moral and political implications
- Conceptual and political frameworks and the prevention of genocide
- Genocide: Causes and possible tools for prevention and control

READINGS FOR THE MODULE: (more detailed reading will be given by each Professor)

- Wiktor Osiatyński, *Human Rights and Their Limits. Cambridge University Press, 2009*
- Oxford Commentaries on International law, (*Oxford University Press 2009*)
- www.massviolence.org/The-Responsibility-to-Protect?cs=print
- www.iciss.ca/pdf/Commission-Report.pdf
- <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/doc/publi/ppol.html>
- <http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edazen/doc/publi/publi2.Par.0095.File.tmp/Politorbis%2047%20-%20Genocide%20Prevention.pdf>

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Bass, Gary J. (2000) *Stay the Hand of Vengeance: The Politics of War Crimes Tribunals* (Princeton)
- Gutman, R. & Rieff, D. (1999) *Crimes of War: what the public should know*
- Glover, J. (2001) *Humanity: a moral history of the twentieth century*
- Neier, A. (1998) *War Crimes: Brutality, Genocide, terror and the Struggle for Justice*
- Robertson, G. (2002) *Crimes against Humanity. The Truggle for Global Justice* (Penguin)
- George Andreopoulos (1994), *Genocide: Conceptual and historical dimensions*, Philadelphia University of Pennsylvania Press,
- Howard Ball, (1999) *Prosecuting War Crimes and Genocide. The Twentieth-century Experience*, Lawrence, Kansas, University Press of Kansas,
- Richard Hovannisian, *The Armenian Genocide in Perspective*, New Brunswick, N J, Transaction Books, 1986
- Taneer Akçam (2004), *From Empire to Republic. Turkish Nationalism and Armenian Genocide* (Zed)
- Donald Bloxham (2005), *The Great Game of Genocide. Imperialism, Nationalism and the Destruction of Ottoman Armenians* (Oxford)
- Omer Bartov (2001), *Murder in Our Midst: The Holocaust, Industrial Killing and Representation* Oxford University Press)
- Omer Bartov (2000), *Mirrors of Destruction. War, Genocide and Modern Identity* (Oxford)
- Yehuda Bauer (2001), *Rethinking the Holocaust* (Yale University Press)
- Michael Marrus (2000) *The Holocaust in History* (Penguin)
- Samuel Totten, Williams S. Parsons, Israel Charny (1997), *Century of Genocide. Eyewitness Accounts and Critical Views* (Garland)
- R.J.Rummel (1999), *Statistics of Democide: Genocide and Mass Murder since 1900*
- Mark Levene (2005), *Genocide in the Age of Nation State* (I.B.Tauris)
- Michael Mann (2005), *The Dark Side of Democracy: Explaining Ethnic Cleansing* (Cambridge)

- Leo Kuper (1985), *The Prevention of Genocide* (Yale)
- Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan (2003), *The Specter of Genocide. Mass Murder in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge)
- Zygmunt Bauman (1989) *Modernity and Holocaust* (Cornell)
- Eric D. Weitz (2003), *A Century of Genocide. Utopias of Race and Nation* (Princeton)
- Robert Melson (1992), *Revolution and Genocide: on the Origins of Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust* (Chicago)