

Kamala Visweswaran
OH M 11:30am-1 pm
and by appointment
SSB 230; 4-8935

**ETHN 289- Race, War and Violence
Fall 2016**

Class Meets SSB 103, M 1-4 pm

Course Description

This course explores the presumption that there is something “Worse than War” by exploring the emergence of genocide discourse in the context of US military interventions over the last two decades and what it elides (ongoing war, violence against US minority populations, etc). How do we think about the post-WWII emergence of genocide as the descriptor of a universal human condition, and the fact that most genocides are racial in character, often deploying sexual violence as a tool of domination? This course seeks to understand a particular epistemic relationship between race, war and violence as one that also produces genocide out of Northamerican carceral and humanitarian regimes of power.

Course Requirements

All books are on reserve in the Geisel Library, but you may wish to purchase some of the texts through an on-line source of your choice. Each student is required to read assigned books before class, and to lead two class discussions on the readings (20% of your grade). Final grades will be based upon class discussion and participation (40%) and completion of one research paper of 10-15 pages (60% of your grade). Term papers will be due in my box by 5 p.m. on December 7, 2011. **No incompletes will be given without a valid medical excuse.**

Assessment:

1. Class Discussion and Attendance 20%

Seminar classes are dependent on everyone's attendance and active participation, thus unexcused absences will impact your final grade. Students are expected to come prepared with 1-2 questions for discussion if they are not facilitating, and with all texts read in advance.

2. Seminar Presentations 20%

Each week one to two students will be responsible for leading our initial discussion, following guidelines below. If covering more than one reading, include a relational

analysis of the works. You may also choose to focus on a particular passage for a close reading, or bring in a video clip or other cultural text to analyze in light of that week's readings.

3. Final Paper 10-15 pages 60%

Guidelines for Seminar Presentations

Following my introduction of the week's readings, seminar presenters should spend 35-45 minutes week's readings. They will also facilitate discussion until the seminar break. Please do not summarize the readings. Instead provide a scholarly assessment of the work by discussing each of the following:

- What area(s) of research does the work cover? Within those areas, what central research question or questions does the book pose and strive to answer? What related or ancillary research questions emerge?
- Theoretical frameworks are used to shape the understanding of the areas of research and the research questions, as well as to help interpret the material under analysis. Identify the major theoretical influences used to create such a framework. What other theories are utilized, and how are they employed?
- Which methodologies are employed to organize the collection, organization, and analysis of the information, data, or other materials that are used to structure and argue responses to the research questions? How does the work respond to the tension between methodologies that have disciplinary origins and strategies for interdisciplinary research and analysis?
- What materials are used as evidence over the course of the book? How are they used? How appropriate and effective is the evidence and the uses made of it?
- What is the structure or architecture of the text that organizes theory, methodology, information, and analysis to bring them to bear on the research questions goals at hand?

Accommodations

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please inform me and bring a notification letter outlining your approved accommodations. If you have responsibility for any dependents, please let me know at the beginning of the term if you need accommodations. I will make all reasonable efforts to assist you. You may also seek assistance or information from the Office for Students with Disabilities, 858-534-4382

Required Books:

Balakian, Peter. 1997. Black Dog of Fate: A Memoir. NY: Basic Books.

Churchill, Ward. *A Little Matter of Genocide: Holocaust and Denial in the Americas*. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1997.

Eng, David and David Kazanjian (eds). 2003. Loss. Berkeley. University of California Press.

Ilana Feldman and Miriam Ticktin, 2010. *In the Name of Humanity: The Government of Threat and Care*, Ilana Feldman and Miriam Ticktin Eds), Durham: Duke University Press.

Rosalinda Fregoso and Cynthia Bejarano. 2010. Terrorizing Women: Feminicide in the Americas. Duke University Press.

Mahmood Mamdani, Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics and the War on Terror. NY: Doubleday, 2009.

Diane M. Nelson. 2009. Reckoning: The Ends of War in Guatemala. Duke.

Ilan Pappé. 2006. The Ethnic Cleansing of the Palestinians. Oxford: Oneworld.

Yasmin Saikia. 2011. Women, War, and the Making of Bangladesh. Duke University Press.

Smith, Andrea. 2005. Conquest: Sexual violence and American Indian Genocide. Duke.

Joao Vargas. Never Meant to Survive: Genocide and Utopia in Black Diapora Communities. NY: Rowman Littlefield

Dubravka Zarkov. 2007. Body of War: Media, Ethnicity, and Gender in the Break-Up of Yugoslavia. Duke University Press.

Recommended Books:

David Eng and David Kazanjian (eds). 2003. Loss. Berkeley. University of California Press.

Eyal Weizman. 2007. Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation. London:Verso.

Sep. 26 Introduction: “Worse than War”-- Provincializing a Universal Narrative

PBS documentary, Daniel Goldhagen “Worse than War”

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/worse-than-war/the-film/watch-worse-than-war/24/>

Ilana Feldman and Miriam Ticktin “Government and Humanity” *In the Name of Humanity: The Government of Threat and Care*, Ilana Feldman and Miriam Ticktin Eds), Durham: Duke University Press, 2010.

Oct. 3

Peter Balakian, 1997. Black Dog of Fate: A Memoir. NY: Basic Books.

Marc Nichanian. 2003. "Catastrophic Mourning" in Loss. David Eng and David Kazanjian (eds). Berkeley. University of California Press. Pp. 99-124.

David Kazanjian and March Nichanian. "Between Genocide and Catastrophe" in Loss. David Eng and David Kazanjian (eds). Berkeley. University of California Press. Pp. 125-47.

Oct. 10

Mahmood Mamdani, Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics and the War on Terror. NY: Doubleday, 2009.

Mahmood Mamdani, "The Politics of Naming, Genocide, Civil War, Insurgency" <http://www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n05/mahmood-mamdani/the-politics-of-naming-genocide-civil-war-insurgency>

I: Genocide in the Americas

Oct. 17

"We Charge Genocide"
http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/USA/INT_CAT_CSS_USA_18557_E.pdf

<http://www.blackpast.org/we-charge-genocide-historic-petition-united-nations-relief-crime-united-states-government-against>

Joao Vargas. 2008. Never Meant to Survive: Genocide and Utopia in Black Diapsora Communities. NY: Rowman Littlefield.

Recommended: Fred Moten. 2003. Black Mo'nin' in David Eng and David Kazanjian (eds). Loss. Berkeley. University of California Press. Pp. 59-76

Oct. 24

Patrick Wolfe, "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native," Journal of Genocide Research 8 (2006): 387-409 <http://www.kooriweb.org/foley/resources/pdfs/89.pdf>

Jodi Byrd. 2007. "Living my Life Deadly: Red Lake, Ward Churchill and the Discourses of Competing Genocides." American Indian Quarterly 31(2): 310-32, Spring 2007.

Smith, Andrea. 2005. Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide. Duke.

Recommended:

<http://americanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-3>

Churchill, Ward. *A Little Matter of Genocide: Holocaust and Denial in the Americas*. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1997.

Oct. 31

Rosalinda Fregoso and Cynthia Bejarano. 2010. Terrorizing Women: Feminicide in the Americas. Duke University Press.

II. Genocide/Gender

Nov. 7

Dubravka Zarkov. 2007. Body of War: Media, Ethnicity, and Gender in the Break-Up of Yugoslavia. Duke University Press.

Nov. 14

Yasmin Saikia. 2011. Women, War and the Making of Bangladesh. Duke University Press.

Nov. 21

III. Postwar?

Diane M. Nelson. 2009. Reckoning: The Ends of War in Guatemala. Duke.

Recommended:

Carlota McAllister Diane M. Nelson. 2013. War by Other Means: Aftermath in Post-Genocide Guatemala. Duke.

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=izi2AgAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&hl=en&pg=GBS.PA4.w.0.2.151>

D. Rothenberg. Memory of Silence: The Guatemalan Truth Commission Report. 2016

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=sGAYDAAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&hl=en&pg=GBS.PR21>

Nov. 28

Achille Mbembe. 2003. "Necropolitics." Public Culture. 15(1):11-40.

Ilan Pappé. 2006. The Ethnic Cleansing of the Palestinians. Oxford: Oneworld Press.

Recommended:

Eyal Weizman. 2007. Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation. London: Verso.

Dec. 7:

FINAL PAPERS DUE