

Religion and Genocide

REL 410-001 | Fall 2018 | 3 Credit Hours

Seminar

Dr. Steve Jacobs

Contact Information

UA Campus Directory:

- Dr. Steve Jacobs (<https://www.ua.edu/directory/?i=sjacobs#listing>)

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

No prereqs found

Course Description

Course Description and Credit Hours

Explores the phenomenon known as genocide by examining its relationship to the religion in both its institutional and theological frameworks.

This course explores genocide by examining its relationship to religion in both its institutional and theological frameworks, beginning with scriptural passages having genocidal intent. Both historical and contemporary examples are examined to ascertain whether there are religious components to their genocides.

Required Texts

Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- JACOBS / CONFRONTING GENOCIDE (Required)
- APSEL, JOYCE / GENOCIDE MATTERS: ONGOING ISSUES AND EMERGING PERSPECTIVES (Required)
- BARTROP, PAUL / GENOCIDE: THE BASICS (Required)

Course Objectives

1. This course will introduce advance students to the concept of genocide and its interface with the concept of religion by examining their commonalities and their differences.
2. This course will examine specific incidents and examples of genocide throughout history to determine whether "religion" was a "participating factor" in those examples.
3. This course will finally explore what concrete and specific things can be done in both arenas to eliminate and/or address this scourge of humankind.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will determine whether or not there exists a relationship of significance between that which we commonly identify as religion-- 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 of research papers and/or creative projects.
2. Students will examine specific examples of historical and contemporary genocides by critically ascertaining whether or not religion is a "participating factor" in the perpetuation 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 positive prognosis of 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 either through a Research Paper or Creative Project and improve both their research and writing skills.
5. Student will pursue their public speaking skills by presenting both Chapter Presentations of various texts and their own Research Papers or Creative Projects.

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 genocidal violence.

Exams and Assignments

1. Response Paper to Bartrop's *Genocide: The Basics*, addressing the question "What Have I learned About Genocide?"
2. 5 Chapter Presentations and class-led discussions to Apse & Verdeja's *Genocide Matters*, and Jacobs' *Confronting Genocide*.
3. Original Research Paper or Creative Project on one (1) genocide, historical or contemporary, addressing the question of the interface of religion and genocide.
4. Final Exam.

Grading Policy

20% = 3-5 page Reaction Paper to Bartrop's *Genocide: the Basics*.

50% = 5 Chapter Presentations with 1-page written summaries.

15% = Research Paper or Creative Project.

15% = Final Exam.

Policy on Missed Exams and 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.

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Code of Academic Conduct (<http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/code-academic-conduct/>) provided in the Online Catalog.

Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines (<http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/severe-weather-guidelines/>) in the Online Catalog.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy>).

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines (http://provost.ua.edu/uploads/3/9/7/6/39760652/aaa_guidelines_for_religious_holiday_observance.pdf).

UAct Statement

The UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/>) provides an overview of The University's expectations regarding respect and civility.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

FALL, 20118

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**REL 101: "THE VIOLENT AND THE SACRED: RELIGION AND
THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN SUFFERING"**

TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 11:00-12:15, 207 MANLY HALL

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REL 410: "RELIGION AND GENOCIDE"

TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 2:00-3:15, 210 MANLY HALL

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AUGUST

Thursday 23 August Introductions, Policies, Syllabus, etc.
Tuesday 28 August
Friday 29 August **LAST DAY TO ADD/DROP COURSE**
Thursday 30 August **NO CLASS; LECTURE AT FLORIDA GULF COAST
UNIVERSITY, "THE RELIGION-GENOCIDE NEXUS"**

SEPTEMBER

Monday 3 September **LABOR DAY; NO CLASSES**
Tuesday 4 September
Thursday 6 September
Tuesday 11 September
Thursday 13 September **REL 410: REACTION PAPER TO BARTROP'S
GENOCIDE: THE BASICS DUE!**
Tuesday 18 September
Thursday 20 September
Tuesday 25 September

Thursday 27 September

OCTOBER

Tuesday 2 October
***BLOODLUST* DUE!**

REL 101: REACTION PAPER TO JACOBY'S

Thursday 4 October

Thursday 5 October

DEGREE APPLICATION DEADLINE!

Tuesday 9 October

Wednesday 10 October

MID-TERM GRADES DUE, REL 101! —11:59 PM

Thursday 11 October

Tuesday 16 October

Thursday 18 October

Tuesday 23 October

Thursday 25 October

NO CLASS; FALL STUDY BREAK!

Monday 29 October

SPRING 2019 REGISTRATION BEGINS

Tuesday 30 October

DAY LECTURE—EXTRA-CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Wednesday 31 October

LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE

NOVEMBER

Thursday 1 November
***FIGHTING WORDS* DUE!**

REL 101: REACTION PAPER TO RENARD'S

Tuesday 6 November

Thursday 8 November

Tuesday 13 November

Thursday 15 November
PROJECT DUE!

REL 410: RESEARCH PAPER OR CREATIVE

Tuesday 20 November

Wednesday 21 November

CLASSES DISMISSED

Thursday 22 November

NO CLASS; THANKSGIVING

Tuesday 27 November

Thursday 29 November
REL 101: EXAM #2

LAST DAY FOR EXAMS, ASSIGNMENTS, ETC.

DECEMBER

Tuesday 4 December

**Thursday 6 December
RESPONSES DUE!**

LAST CLASS! REL 101: ALL ARTICLE

Friday 7 December

**LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM TERM;
CLASSES END**

Thursday 13 December

FINAL EXAM REL 410! [8:00-10:30 AM]

Friday 14 December

FINAL EXAM REL 101! [8:00-10:30 AM]

Saturday 15 December

WINTER COMMENCEMENT!

Tuesday 18 December

FINAL GRADE ENTRY DEADLINE! [11:59 PM]

HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK!