

SOCI 4850C/SOCI 5805F
Contemporary Topics in Sociology: Critical Genocide Studies

Instructor	TBA
Term	Fall 2025
Course Delivery	In-person
Email Address	TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course critically examines the phenomenon of genocide, which surfaced again in the last two decades in contexts such as Sudan, Syria, Myanmar, Ukraine, and, most recently, Palestine. The course equips students with a sociological approach to analyzing genocide in different contexts and the relations between the perpetrators and victims. While genocide is undoubtedly one of the most egregious wrongs known to humankind, the form it takes in law as 'crime' is not without controversy. These controversies and the political bias within the field of genocide studies appeared vividly in Ukraine and Palestine. Debates on how the law limits and reduces complex genocidal processes into justifiable patterns will be considered, stressing the need for a sociological intervention to transcend legal grounds. Intersections between genocide, settler-colonialism, and capitalism will also be part of our discussion.

TEXT

Note: These are the primary sources; I might consider adding other texts later.

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Bloxham, D. (2011). *The Final Solution: A Genocide*. Oxford University Press.

Card, C. (2010). *Confronting evils: Terrorism, torture, genocide*. University Press.

Coulthard, G. (2014). *Red skin, white masks: Rejecting the colonial politics of recognition*.

Docker, J. (2012). Instrumentalizing the Holocaust: Israel, Settler-Colonialism, Genocide (Creating a Conversation between Raphaël Lemkin and Ilan Pappé). *Holy Land Studies*, 11(1), 1–32.
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Fanon, F. (1967). *The Wretched of the Earth. Preface by Jean-Paul Sartre. Translated by Constance Farrington*. Harmondsworth.

Feierstein, D. (with Town, D. A.). (2014). *Genocide as social practice: Reorganizing society under the Nazis and Argentina's military juntas*. Rutgers University Press. <https://doi.org/10.36019/9780813563190>

- Hinton, A. (2016). *Man or Monster? The Trial of a Khmer Rouge Torturer*. Duke University Press.
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- Nijim, M. (2024). Gazacide: Palestinians from Refugeehood to Ontological Obliteration. *Critical Sociology*, 08969205241286530. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205241286530>
- Powell, C. (2011). *Barbaric Civilization: A Critical Sociology of Genocide*. McGill-Queens University Press.
- Shaw, M. (2015). *What is Genocide?* (2 edition). Polity.
- Short, D. (2010). Cultural genocide and indigenous peoples: A sociological approach. *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 14(6), 833–848. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13642987.2010.512126>
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- Wilson. (2008). *Political Truth Reconciliation South Africa*. Cambridge University Press.
- Wolfe, P. (2006). Settler colonialism and the elimination of the native. *Journal of Genocide Research*, 8(4), 387–409. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14623520601056240>
- Woolford, A. J. (2015). *This benevolent experiment: Indigenous boarding schools, genocide, and redress in Canada and the United States*. University of Nebraska Press.