



# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

**SOCI 421.5**

## **Special Topics in Deviance and Criminology (Genocide & Terrorism)**

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|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| • Winter 2019 | • M/W/F 9.00-9.50 | • SH274 |
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**Instructor: Dr. Nestar Russell**

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**Office Hours: Monday 10.00-11.00am**

### **Course Description**

In this course students are exposed to a wide variety of theories that attempt to shed light on better understanding a prominent example of genocide: the Nazi Holocaust. More specifically, this course sets out by exploring a populist explanation of the Holocaust: Daniel Goldhagen's book "Hitler's Willing Executioners." The remainder of the course compares and contrasts Goldhagen's ambitious theory with a variety of lesser well-known but more nuanced explanatory accounts of the Holocaust. These less populist theories are likely to have a variety of implications on better understanding other examples of mass violence.

### **Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Obtain a basic historical overview of the Nazi Holocaust (and various theoretical frameworks which have attempted to better understand this act of genocide).
2. Gain a strong grasp of theories on seemingly incomprehensible acts of mass violence by scholars like Norbert Elias, Roy Baumeister, Stanley Milgram, and others.

3. Explore the relationship between the social construction of crime and acts of mass violence.
4. Develop a critical and self-reflexive lens in relation to the study of genocide.

### Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

Alvarez, A. (2010). *Genocidal Crimes*. London: Routledge.

Russell, N.J.C. (2019). *Willing Participants: Stanley Milgram's Obedience to Authority Experiments and the Holocaust (Vol. 2)*. Palgrave Macmillan (New York). Copies are available free on-line (alternatively I can supply PDF copies).

There may be other readings assigned during the course.

Supplementary (non-essential) readings: Russell, N.J.C. (2018). *Willing Participants: Stanley Milgram's Obedience to Authority Experiments and the Holocaust (Vol. 1)*. Palgrave Macmillan (New York).

### Course Assessment

	DUE DATE	PERCENTAGE	CONTENT
Midterm Test	9-9.50am Friday, 8 March.	40%	Short answer questions based on Alvarez, A. (2010: Chapters 1 to 5: pp. 6-124). <i>Genocidal Crimes</i> . London: Routledge.
Documentary Observation Report	9am Friday, 12 April (end of class)	10%	In early April the class will watch several of documentaries. Then students must choose one of the documentaries and write a brief report outlining their most important critical insights and observations (no more than 400 words long).
Final Exam (official)	TBA (some time between 15- 27 April)	50%	Format: One essay and a variety of short answer questions

### Final Exam Information

The final exam in this course will require students write one essay and answer a variety of short answer questions based on all lectures, class discussions, Power Point slides, and any documentaries shown.

## Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

## Schedule of Lectures

Week 1 – Fri. Jan. 11: *Course Overview and introduction.*

Week 2 – Mon. Jan. 14: *Goldhagen and Genocide—video.*

Wed. Jan. 16: *Overview of Goldhagen’s (1997) “Hitler’s Willing Executioners.”*

Fri. Jan. 18: *Overview of Goldhagen’s (1997) “Hitler’s Willing Executioners” (cont.)*

Week’s Reading: Chapter One, Alvarez (2010).

Week 3 – Mon. Jan. 21: *Elias’s Civilizing Process--part one.*

Wed. Jan. 23: *Elias’s Civilizing Process--part one (cont.)*

Fri. Jan. 25: *Elias’s Civilizing Process--part one (cont.)*

Week’s Reading: Chapter Two, Alvarez (2010).

- Week 4 – Mon. Jan. 28: *Elias’s Civilizing Process--part two.*  
 Wed. Jan. 30: *Elias’s Civilizing Process--part two (cont.)*  
 Fri. Feb. 1: *Elias’s Civilizing Process--part two (cont.)*  
 Week’s Reading: Chapter Three, Alvarez (2010).
- Week 5 – Mon. Feb. 4: *Milgram’s Obedience to Authority Experiments--part one*  
 Wed. Feb. 6: *Milgram’s Obedience to Authority Experiments--part one (cont.)*  
 Fri. Feb.8: *Milgram’s Obedience to Authority Experiments--part one (cont.)*  
 Week’s Reading: Chapter Four, Alvarez (2010).
- Week 6 – Mon. Feb. 11: *Ritzer’s McDonaldization thesis.*  
 Wed. Feb. 13: *Ritzer’s McDonaldization thesis (cont.)*  
 Fri. Feb.15: *Ritzer’s McDonaldization thesis (cont.)*  
 Week’s Reading: Chapter Four (cont.), Alvarez (2010).
- February 16-24 Mid-term break
- Week 7 – Mon. Feb. 25: *Baumeister’s thesis on ‘evil’ and Obedience to Authority (part two): Russell and Gregory’s (2011) reinterpretation.*  
 Wed. Feb. 27: *Baumeister’s thesis on ‘evil’ and Obedience to Authority (part two): Russell and Gregory’s (2011) reinterpretation (cont.)*  
 Fri. March 1: *Baumeister’s thesis on ‘evil’ and Obedience to Authority (part two): Russell and Gregory’s (2011) reinterpretation (cont.)*  
 Week’s Reading: Chapter Five, Alvarez (2010).
- Week 8 – Mon. March. 4: *Power: the Social Construction of Crime.*  
 Wed. March. 6: *Power: the Social Construction of Crime (cont.)*  
 Fri. March 8: *Midterm Test*  
 Week’s Reading: No readings
- Week 9 – Mon. March. 11: *Obedience to Authority (part three): Bureaucracy and Technology.*  
 Wed. March. 13: *Obedience to Authority (part three): Bureaucracy and Technology (cont.)*

Fri. March 15: *Obedience to Authority (part three): Bureaucracy and Technology (cont.)*

Week's Reading: Russell (2019, V.2): Chapter One, Two, and Three

Week 10 – Mon. March. 18: *The Holocaust: Bureaucracy, Trial and Error, and Technology.*

Wed. March. 20: *The Holocaust: Bureaucracy, Trial and Error, and Technology (cont.)*

Fri. March 22: *The Holocaust: Bureaucracy, Trial and Error, and Technology (cont.)*

Week's Reading: Russell (2019, V.2): Chapter Four, Five, and Six

Week 11 – Mon. March. 25: *Documentary*

Wed. March. 27: *"Humane" killing*

Fri. March 29: *"Humane" killing (cont.)*

Week's Reading: Russell (2019, V.2): Chapter Seven and Eight

Week 12 – Mon. April. 1: *Documentary*

Wed. April. 3: *Documentary and class discussion*

Fri. April 5: *Beyond the Holocaust*

Week's Reading: Russell (2019, V.2): Chapter Nine (supplementary reading: Alvarez (2010) Chapter Six).

Week 13 – Mon. April. 8: *Beyond the Holocaust*

Wed. April. 10: *Beyond the Holocaust*

Fri. April 12: *Exam Review and hand in Observational Reports*

Week's Reading: None

### **Grade Reappraisal**

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

## **Technology Use**

Students are allowed to use laptop in class to take notes. It is forbidden to videotape or record lectures without the instructor's permission.

## **Email**

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include your full name and student ID. All emails will be answered within one business day. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. If there is something you want to discuss please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

## **Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at **Education Block - Food Court**.

## **Handing in Papers, Assignments**

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

## **Research Ethics**

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

## **Academic Misconduct**

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

## **Absences and Deferrals**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is

acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.

**Deferred Final Exam Form:** Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at:

[https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf)

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

### **Student Representation**

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington ([suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

### **Safewalk**

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

### **Academic Accommodation**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

### **Student Resources**

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)