

Dr. Carol Edelman

608 Butte, 898-6148

Hours: M 3:00 – 6:00 P.M. and by appointment

cedelman@csuchico.edu

SOCI/CMST/MJS 356H: GENOCIDE AND MASS PERSUASION

Syllabus for Fall, 2009

Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:50 P.M., Butte 203

“One death is a tragedy, a million deaths is a statistic.” -- Joseph Stalin

Through lectures, guest speakers, and films, we will explore major cases of genocide in the 20th and 21st centuries. We will begin with the rape of Nanking. Other cases we will study include the Holocaust, Stalin’s purges, the "Killing Fields" of Cambodia and both Rwanda and Darfur in Africa. We will explore the social conditions and communicative actions that brought about genocide and learn about the various roles of perpetrator, bystander, victim and rescuer. We will also investigate how genocides are handled by the international community.

We will see the extreme results of inter-ethnic and inter-cultural conflict represented in the examples of the course. These case studies of genocide also provide examples of the use of modern technology without moral or ethical bounds. Studying them forces us to examine our own moral understandings in light of the realities of genocide in the 20th century, where genocide has occurred far too often as a pattern of inter-ethnic relations. Ironically, as our world becomes more "civilized" and technologically advanced, we do not seem to become more accepting of cultural or ethnic diversity.

Our understanding of genocide leads us to an appreciation of the necessity for maintaining tolerance of cultural diversity and a refusal to let hate-based policies of small groups become the policy of a nation. Through the examination of extreme hatreds and their resulting mass deaths, we begin to comprehend that ethnocentrism and prejudice, when allowed to grow may have significant and horrible impact. And through the examination of the extreme results of prejudice and ethnocentrism, we begin to understand our own individual and corporate responsibility for moral and ethical acceptance of diverse peoples and perspectives.

This course fulfills requirements for non-western credit and is also part of the upper division general education honors theme. In addition, this course is an elective that helps fulfill the requirements for a major or minor in sociology.

This class is organized around the following General Education and sociology department objectives:

- This general education theme deals with issues critical to your lives as citizens of this society and the larger world community.
- This theme is both interdisciplinary and integrated in its investigation of genocide.
- This course integrates substantial aspects of sociology as well as the natural sciences, other behavioral and social sciences and the humanities in an examination of genocide in the 20th century.
- This course covers core sociological concepts.
- This course investigates the effects of domestic and global forces on social institutions, on your life, and on the lives of other individuals and groups.

Required Reading:

- **The Rape of Nanking** by Chang
- **Ordinary Men** by Browning
- **One Day In the Life of Ivan Denisovich** by Solzhenitsyn
- **First They Killed My Father** by Ung
- **We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed...** by Gourevitch
- **Not on Our Watch** by Cheadle and Prendergast
- **A Problem from Hell: America & the Age of Genocide** by Powers (optional reading)
- **Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak** by Hatzfeld (optional reading)
- **Other Material on the Web as Assigned in Class**

Course Grades:

1. **Two Essay Exams.** There will be two exams, each worth 100 points. The first will be in class on October 27th. If you have a valid reason for missing this exam that you have cleared with me ahead of time, it can be made up, but only within one week after the test date. The final will be on December 15th during our scheduled finals time. No tests will be given after that date.

2. **Book Analyses.** You will be completing a 1-2 page paper on the books required for the class. The Powers and Hatzfeld books are optional but doing a paper on one or both of them can get you extra credit. The topic you will write about for each of these books assignments will be posted on our class website. Each of these papers is worth 20 possible points. These papers will be due at the beginning of class on the days we will be discussing the books. Because we will discuss the books and papers in class on the dates they are due, I cannot accept late papers.

3. **Social Action Assignment.** Studying so much state sponsored mass murder can be overwhelming; it is a powerful social evil that leaves us feeling helpless. But we can get involved. For this assignment, you will take some positive action in a way that is related to the course material, either having to do with genocide in general or with one or more of the genocides we covered in class. You can do this alone or pair up with one other person in the class. We'll be sharing ideas of possible involvement on the local, state, national or international level in class. Your action and results and the write-up about it (up to 2 pages double spaced), will be due December 8th. You will be sharing them in class that night. This assignment is worth 50 points.

4. **Attendance and Class Participation.** This class is designed to be a combination of lecture and discussion. Heavy emphasis is placed on discussing pertinent issues presented in the lecture and reading material, whether we agree with them, how crucial they are, how they affect our lives, etc. Therefore, class attendance and participation may affect your final grade. You are expected to attend, and while there, participate in the discussion of the material.

5. **Extra credit.** There will be limited opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester by attending presentations and performances on a topic related to this course. To earn extra credit, you would type an informed 2 page discussion of that presentation (worth 10 possible points), incorporating material from the lectures and readings (use citations). Extra-credit papers will not be accepted later than one week after the presentation occurred. Only those events announced in class will count for extra credit and I will announce these in class as I hear about them. If you know of something that might qualify for extra credit, please bring it to my attention so that I can announce it in class.

Please keep in mind that doing this extra credit work is not enough to get you extra credit points; the work must be done well. Also keep in mind that these extra credit opportunities will make slight rather than

drastic upward improvements in your grade. That means that if you want a good grade in this class, you will have to do well on the course requirements listed above.

All completed assignments can be emailed to me or turned in as hardcopy. All work you submit for grading should follow the guidelines listed below. If you don't, you will lose points.

1. Your assignment should be free of typographical and grammatical errors. Proofread for both! If there are too many errors, you may be asked to redo the paper or use the Writing Center at Taylor 107.
2. Your assignment should be clearly written. Organize your thoughts as you write and edit your drafts. Have introduction, body, and conclusion sections.
3. Do not plagiarize. Cite when you use ideas or information or paraphrase; quote and cite when you use exact words. Plagiarism will be dealt with severely in this course; do not do it!
4. The paper must be typewritten, double-spaced, with 1" margins. Pages should be numbered and hardcopies need to be stapled together.
5. Begin your paper with a title page.

Save a copy of every assignment you have completed. Also, save all the graded work that we return to you. Keep these until you get your grade for the course. They are crucial if you have concerns about the computation of your final grade.

If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. DSS is located in the University Center (UC) 100. The DSS phone number is 898-5959 V/TTY or FAX 898-4411. Visit the DSS website at <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/>. Once you are registered with DSP (Disabled Students Program) please contact me so we make the necessary arrangements to accommodate your concerns.

Class Schedule:

- Topic 1 Introduction to the Course 8/25
- Topic 2 The Rape of Nanking 9/1, 9/15 (Chang due 9/15)
- Topic 3 The Holocaust- Propaganda, Targeted Groups, Perpetrators, Victims and Rescuers 9/22, 9/29 (Browning due 9/29)
- Topic 4 Obedience among perpetrators 10/6
- Topic 5 The UN Genocide Convention 10/6
- Topic 6 Stalin's Terror (Solzhenitsyn book) 10/20

Exam I 10/27

- Topic 7 The Killing Fields of Cambodia (Ung book) 11/3
- Topic 8 The Rwandan Experience of Hutu vs. Tutsi 11/10 and 11/17 (Gourevitch due 11/17)
- Topic 9 Genocide in Sudan (Cheadle and Prendergast book) 12/1
- Topic 10 Social Action Activity. 12/8

Exam II (Finals Week – Tuesday, Dec. 15th 8:00 to 9:50 pm in Butte 203)

The schedule above is subject to revision. You will be informed in advance if any changes are made.