

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Genocide and Memory in Comparative Perspectives**  
**2017**

**Instructor:** Dr. Gábor Kádár, Visiting Professor

Department

Central European University

Semester/term, year

Course level (MA, PhD)

# Credits (# ECTS Credits)

Pre-requisites (if applicable)

Course e-learning site:

**Course description**

The course will provide an overview and analysis of various state-organized acts of violence, examples of ethnic cleansing, genocides and mass murders during the twentieth century.

Questions and events in focus will be examined through a coherent conceptual framework and with a strong comparative aspect. The focus of the comparative approach will be the history of the Holocaust, using the Nazi attempt to destroy European Jewry as a main reference point. The analysis will focus on the historical, cultural and social contexts, stressing structural similarities and dissimilarities among the examined events. The final section of the course will explore the spatial, cultural and political memory of the Holocaust and other genocides.

**Learning outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will understand the complex genesis and evolution of genocides and mass murders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as their main characteristics and various temporal and geographical patterns. They will be able to apply a comparative approach in the analysis of the events and have a deeper understanding of their historical and cultural contexts.

## **Course requirements**

- Class attendance and participation in discussions: 50 % of the final grade.
- Term paper: 50 % of the final grade. The paper should be minimum 2500 words (not including bibliography) and should relate to the themes of the course.

### **1. Empire building and the roots of mass murder**

- Timothy Snyder. *Bloodlands. Europe between Hitler and Stalin*. London: The Bodley Head, 2010: pp. 379-408. (Conclusion: Humanity)
- Yuval Noah Harari: *Sapiens. A Brief History of Humankind*. London: Vintage Books, 2014: pp. 210-232. (Imperial Visions)

### **2. Comparing genocides – a case study**

- Yehuda Bauer. *Rethinking the Holocaust*. New Haven-London: Yale University Press, 2001 pp. 39-67. (Chapter 3: Comparisons with other Genocides)
- Vahakn N. Dadrian. “The Comparative Aspects of the Armenian and the Jewish Cases of Genocide: A Sociohistorical Perspective.” In Alan S. Rosenbaum, ed. *Is the Holocaust Unique? Perspectives on Comparative Genocide*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1996: pp. 101-137.

### **3. A genocidal mind?**

- Lord Russel of Liverpool, ed. *Commandant of Auschwitz. The Autobiography of Rudolf Höss*. Cleveland – New York: The World Publishing Company, 1959: pp. 29-64.
- Arthur Koestler et al. *The God that Failed*. New York: Harper Colophon Books, 1963: pp. 15-76.

### **4. “Ordinary” murderers**

- Wendy Lower. *Hitler’s Furies. German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields*. Boston – New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013: pp. 120-144. (Chapter 5: Perpetrators)
- Christopher Browning. *Ordinary Men. Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: Harper Collins, 1992: pp. 55-77. (Chapter 7: Initiation to Mass Murder: The Józefów Massacre; Chapter 8: Reflections on a Massacre)

- Jean Hatzfeld. *Machete Season: the Killers in Rwanda Speak*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005: pp. 66-114. (A Neighborhood Genocide; Punishment; Some Thoughts on Corrugated Metal; Looting; A Sealed Chamber; Rejoicing in the Village; The Disappearance of Escape Networks; Women)

## **5. The logistics of annihilation**

- Robert Jan van Pelt. “A Site in Search for a Mission.” In Yisrael Gutman and Michael Berenbaum, eds. *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp*. Bloomington: USHMM-Indiana University Press, 1994: pp. 93-156.
- Benjamin A. Valentino. *Final Solutions. Mass Killing and Genocide in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Cornell University Press, 2004: pp. 66-90. (The Strategic Logic of Mass Killing)

## **6. Patterns of mass violence: pogroms, riots, atrocities**

- Jan T. Gross. *Fear. Anti-Semitism in Poland after Auschwitz*. New York: Random House, 2006: pp. 83-117. (Chapter 3: The Kielce Pogrom: Events)
- Jasneet Aulakh. “ ‘Just Another Riot in India’ : Remembering the 1984 anti-Sikh Violence”. *Acta Academia* 17 August 2015, 47 (1): pp. 208-227.

## **7. Plunder, rape, cultural genocide**

- Zoltán Vági, László Csósz, and Gábor Kádár, eds. *The Holocaust in Hungary. Evolution of a Genocide*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers – USHMM, 2013: pp. 177-211. (Chapter 6: Plunder)
- Taner Akcam. *The Young Turks’ Crime against Humanity. The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012: pp. 287-339. (Assimilation: The Conversion and Forced Marriage of Christian Children).

## **8. Rescue and resistance**

- Nechama Tec. “Jewish Resistance: Facts, Omissions, and Distortions.” In Patrick Henry, ed. *Jewish Resistance against the Nazis*. Washington: The Catholic University of America Press, 2014: pp. 40-70.

- Claire Andrieu et al, eds. *Resisting Genocide. The Multiple Forms of Rescue*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011: pp. 495-506. (Conclusion. Rescue, a Notion Revisited)

## 9. Memory and politics

- Joanna Michlic. The Polish debate about the Jedwabne Massacre.  
<http://sicsa.huji.ac.il/21michlic.pdf>
- Susan Thomson. “Whispering Truth to Power: The Everyday Resistance of Rwandan Peasants to Post-Genocide Reconciliation.” *African Affairs*, 110/440, pp. 439-456

## 10-11. Landscapes of Holocaust memory in Budapest – a walk

- Sándor Horváth: Goodbye Historikerstreit, Hello Budapest City of Angels: The Debate about the Monument to the German Occupation <http://www.cultures-of-history.uni-jena.de/debates/hungary/goodbye-historikerstreit-hello-budapest-city-of-angels-the-debate-about-the-monument-to-the-german-occupation/>
- Tim Cole. *Holocaust City. The Making of a Jewish Ghetto*. New York - London: Routledge, 2003: pp. 191-220. (Planning and implementing Hyphenated Ghettoization, July 1944 – January 1945)

## 12. The Holocaust as a global icon

- Alan E. Steinweis. “The Auschwitz Analogy: Holocaust Memory and American Debates over Intervention in Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s.” *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 19, no. 2, pp. 276-289.
- Aleida Assmann. “The Holocaust – a Global Memory? Extension and Limits of a New Memory Community.” In Aleida Assman, and Sebastian Conrad, eds. *Memory in a Global Age. Discourses, Practices and Trajectories*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010: pp. 97-117.