**WOH2003: A History of Genocide**

Course #: 29883

Instructor: Dr. Liz Bryant

Class Time: 10:00- 11:15 Tuesdays and Thursdays

Class Location: WC 011- 339

Office Hours: Happily by appointment in person or via Skype

Email: ebryant12@valenciacollege.edu

**Course Textbook:**

*Is the Holocaust Unique? Perspectives on Contemporary Genocide*. 3rd Edition. Ed. Alan S. Rosenbaum. ISBN: 978-0-8133-4406-5

All other course readings can be found on Blackboard under the “Course Readings” tab.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Course Description:**

This is a 3-credit hour course which is an in-depth survey on the history of genocide. It will concentrate primarily on genocidal acts committed in the 20th Century, but it will search for causation from antiquity to the present. The course will be based in the discipline of history but it will utilize a multi-disciplinary approach as it seeks cause, effect, and possible solutions to genocide and associated crimes against humanity.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Students will construct a systematic overview of instances of genocide in the 20th century
2. Students will develop abilities to identify and summarize key issues of cultural conflict and leadership involved in genocidal incidents
3. Students will analyze the roles of leaders in terms of contributions promoting or limiting the violence, including forfeited opportunities for solutions
4. Students will identify the nature of genocide and its contemporary impact through a wide array of literature and films
5. Students will explore and develop personal understandings of the basic moral issues relevant to the study of group conflict
6. Students will analyze the difficulties of genocide prevention based on historical models
7. Students will develop critical writing and analytical skills through completing writing assignments of various lengths

**Valencia College Core Competencies:**

“The faculty of Valencia College has identified four core competencies that define the learning outcomes for a successful Valencia graduate. These competencies are at the heart of the Valencia experience and provide the context for learning and assessment at Valencia College. You will be given opportunities to develop and practice these competencies in this class. The four competencies are:

1. **Think** - think clearly, and creatively, analyze, synthesize, integrate and evaluate in the many domains of human inquiry

2. **Value** - make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments

3. **Communicate** - communicate with different audiences using varied means

4. **Act** - act purposefully, effectively and responsibly.”

**Course Policies:**

**Academic Honesty:**

Valencia College policy 6Hx28: 8-11 states:

“All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a test situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive.

All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the student’s individual thoughts, research and self-expression. Whenever a student uses ideas, wording or organization from another source, the source shall be appropriately acknowledged.”

In other words, DON’T CHEAT!!!! If you are in doubt about whether an action constitutes academic dishonesty, please speak with me or review the “Understanding Plagiarism” resources on Blackboard. I will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Please note: any student found in violation of this policy will receive a grade of 0 on the assignment and may be subject to other disciplinary actions by the college.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a

notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific

needs with the instructor, preferably during the first week of class.

The Office for Students with Disabilities is located in SSB room 102. Their phone number is: 407-582-1523.

**BayCare Student Assistance Services**:

Valencia College strives to ensure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help with issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home, or work. BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP) services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470. If needed, the counselor may refer the student to appropriate resources or to speak face-to-face with a licensed counselor.

**Security Statement**

We want to reassure you that our security officers are here around the clock to ensure the safety and security of the campus community. It’s important to remain alert and aware of your surroundings, especially during the early morning or evening hours. Remember that you can always call security for an escort if you feel uncomfortable walking alone on campus. White security phones can also be found in many of our buildings; simply pick up the phone and security will answer. Finally, report any suspicious persons to West Campus Security at 407-582-1000, 407-582-1030 (after-hours number) or by using the yellow emergency call boxes located on light poles in the parking lots and along walkways.

**Important Valencia College Quick Links:**

College Calendar:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/>

College Catalog:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/catalog/>

Valencia Policy Manual:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/>

Student Handbook:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/pdf/studenthandbook.pdf>

**Course Website:**

Our course website can be found at: <http://learn.valenciacollege.edu/>

On this site, I will post your grades, any additional readings, and the PowerPoint presentations. This site is here to help you, and supplement the material we discuss in class, so it is essential that you be able to access it. Should you have any problems with Blackboard please contact technical support either at 407-582-5444 or <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8191>

**Email:** ebryant12@valenciacollege.edu

Email is the easiest way to get in touch with me and I check my email regularly during the week. However, it should be noted that it might take me longer than 24 hours to respond during holidays and weekends.

Any online correspondence must be cordial and respectful.

Please note: Do not email me through the course Blackboard site, as I do not check messages there as frequently as I do my Valencia email account.

**Cell Phones and General Courtesy:**

I expect everyone to be on time and to be quiet during lectures and films and stay for the entire class period. If you have an emergency and need to come late or leave early, please notify me ahead of time.

Turn your phones off prior to coming to class. If your cell phone rings repeatedly, I have permission to answer it for you.

Also, coming to class and texting/facebooking/instagramming/ tweeting/ emailing/ tindering/ etc. on your cell phone for the entire period benefits no one. You are not learning. Unplug for the 1 hour and 15 minutes. I promise you will survive.

Valencia College is a smoke free campus. While you are allowed to dip on school property, please refrain from doing so in class. It is gross and distracting.

In addition, Valencia College strives to provide a drug-free learning environment for all those involved in the academic experience. Our policy is as follows:

“In compliance with the provisions of the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, Valencia College will take such steps as are necessary in order to adopt and implement a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by Valencia College students or employees on college premises or as part of any college activity.”

In this course, we will be discussing upsetting and controversial subjects on which individuals are likely to have strong opinions. In order for the class to be successful, it is essential that everyone show respect for the instructor and your classmates. One of the most important aspects of a liberal arts education is learning to be respectful of the viewpoints of others with whom you may disagree. Students are expected to communicate in a civil manner in academic interactions at all times. Class discussions should be respectful and understanding towards both peers and professors. In no instance will personal attacks be tolerated.

**Office Hours:**

If you would like to speak with me outside of class, please email me so we can set up a mutually convenient time to meet either in person or via Skype.

“Valencia College is committed to providing each student a quality educational experience. Faculty members have set high standards of instruction for themselves and for you. If you have a problem in a class, your first step is to talk to your instructor. If you are still dissatisfied, you may talk with the academic dean of the division for your class. We will work together to resolve any issues that arise.”

**Computers and Taping Lectures:**

Laptops are fine to use for typing notes. They should not be used to video record classes.

Also, laptops should be used EXCLUSIVELY for taking notes in class. If you are doing something other than taking notes, and it interferes with either my teaching or the ability of people around you to concentrate, I reserve the right to ask that you no longer use a laptop in class.

I do not allow students to tape my classes without permission from the Office for Students with Disabilities.

**Withdrawals:**

Please note I do not withdraw students who have completed the first week of class. If you want to drop the class, you must do so by April 1 in order to receive a “W.” A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. Students who stay in the class after this deadline are responsible to complete all work required for the course. If you choose to stop coming to the class after the withdrawal deadline, you will be held responsible for all work missed, including the final exam. Any work that is not completed by the appropriate deadline will receive a zero. Hence, the final grade for the course will be determined by taking into consideration the percentages obtained by work that was turned in and the zeros given to work that was not turned in on time. Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.”

**Please Note:** Students on financial aid should consult an advisor or counselor before withdrawing from a course; there may be financial implications to the student which he or she must know about to make an informed decision before withdrawing from a class. Students with some scholarships who withdraw from a class must pay the college for the cost of the class. Other scholarship sponsors may also require repayment.

In order to academically maintain financial aid, students must meet all of the following requirements:

* Complete 67% of all classes attempted, and
* Maintain a Valencia GPA of 2.0 or higher, and
* Maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, and
* Complete degree within the 150% timeframe

Detailed information about maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP) can be found at: <http://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/satisfactory_progress.cfm>

For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please got to:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm?policyID=75&volumeID_1=4&navst=0>

**Missed Exams:**

Those who miss exams without prior permission who are without a valid excuse, such as illness requiring the care of a doctor or extreme personal emergencies, will receive a grade of 0 for that test. Please note: any make-up exams are subject to be in a different format than exams given in class (i.e. essay tests.)

As stated in the Valencia Catalog, excused absences are given when a student can show evidence of illness, death in immediate family, jury duty or other equally serious reasons for non-attendance.

Please note: all missed exam make-ups will be held on April 21.

**Grades:**

Your grade will be earned by your work on the following assignments, which are described below:

Test 1 100 points

Test 2 (Final Exam) 100 points

Attendance and Participation 100 points

Paper 1 100 points

Paper 2 100 points

Total 500 points

**Points Earned Final Grade**

448-500 A

398-447 B

348-397 C

298-347 D

0-297 F

**FINAL GRADES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE.** If you are so drastically concerned with your grades, do not ask if you can do extra assignments, etc. during the last week of classes or after the class is finished. If you are concerned about your grade, it is YOUR responsibility to come and see me early in the semester.

**Assignment Descriptions:**

**Tests**- These can include multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, author identification, short answer and/or essay questions. The material covered on the test will come from class lectures. Please note: the final exam is not cumulative, but several questions will test you on important themes that have been repeated throughout the semester.

Please note: In order to take an exam, you must be on time. If you arrive after the first person has completed the test, you will take an alternate version of the test on a later date. There will be no exceptions to this policy. There will be no make-ups for the final exam.

**Attendance and Participation**- This includes but is not limited to pop quizzes, reflection papers, pair-share, small group work, and participation in class discussions. You will not be successful in this course without regular class attendance.

Please note: This class will be heavily discussion based. Be prepared to come to class and discuss the assigned readings whether in a small group, open class discussion, or, if no one is feeling talkative, in written format. In order to fulfill this requirement, students are expected to prepare thoroughly as directed and complete all readings before coming to class. This preparedness will provide opportunities to create a vibrant, dynamic class environment that will aid your understanding of the course material. Every student in this course comes to it from a different starting point, and my aim as your professor is to utilize the wealth of diverse experiences to create an all-encompassing class spirit.

**Paper One**- Holocaust film paper. After watching the film of your choice from the three listed on Blackboard, you, in an essay of no less than 750 words, will analyze various aspects of the film relating to concepts and ideas you learned in class. Complete instructions are posted on Blackboard.

**Paper Two**- Rwandan OR Cambodian film paper. After watching the film of your choice from the two Rwandan or two Cambodian films listed on Blackboard, you, in an essay of no less than 750 words, will analyze various aspects of the film relating to concepts and ideas you learned in class. Complete instructions are posted on Blackboard.

Please Note: Paper One and Two must be turned in to me in class on or before the assigned due dates. Failure to turn a paper in on time will be penalized by a 10-point per class period deduction.

**Important Dates:**

March 1- Test 1

March 8,10- No class! Spring Break!

March 24- Holocaust Paper Due

April 1- Last day to drop the course and receive a W

April 7- Cambodian film paper due

April 19- Rwandan film paper due

April 21- No class; exam make-up day

April 26- Final Exam; 10-12:30 in our classroom

**DISCLAIMER: I reserve the right to change any portion of this course. Advance notice will be given to students should there be any changes made.**

**Contact Information for Your Classmates:**

Please take down the contact information for 2-3 of your classmates. This way if you miss class for some reason, you have a resource to help you out.

Student Name:

Phone:

Email Address:

Student Name:

Phone:

Email Address:

Student Name:

Phone:

Email Address:

**Spring 2016 Schedule**

\*\* Please note this schedule is tentative and subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

January 12- Introduction to WOH2003

January 14-What is genocide???

January 19-Situating genocide in a historical context; Film: *The Genocide Factor: The Human Tragedy from Biblical Times Through the Ages*

January 21- Raphael Lemkin and the origins of the concept of genocide

January 26- Genocide as an international legal theory following World War II

January 28- The UN Genocide Convention of 1948; Alternative theories of genocide

February 2- The Armenian Genocide

February 4- Film: *The Armenian Genocide*

February 9- Armenian Genocide Continued

February 11- Genocide in the Soviet Union

February 16- Holodomor

February 18- Genocide Under Stalin

February 23- Genocide under Stalin Continued

February 25- Film: *Eternal Memory: Voices from the Great Terror*

March 1- Test 1

March 3- Factors that Led to the Holocaust

March 8- No class; Spring Break

March 10- No class; Spring Break

March 15- The Holocaust

March 17- The Holocaust Continued

March 22- Diversity of Victims of the Holocaust

March 24- Film: *Night and Fog*

March 29- Cambodia

March 31- Cambodia Continued

April 5- Cambodia Continued

April 7- Rwanda

April 12- Rwanda Continued

April 14- Rwanda Continued

April 19- The Politics of Commemoration: Is the Holocaust Unique?

April 21- No class; Make up exam day

April 26- Final Exam; 10:00-12:30 in our classroom