

History 300, Section 006, Spring 2010
Race/War/Genocide: U.S. and Germany, 1865-1965
T 10:50 - 1:30

Professor Paul Harvey
COB 2055
pharvey@uccs.edu; X 4078

Professor Robert Sackett
COB 2053
rsackett@uccs.edu; X 4079

This course will explore the origins, development, implications, and aftermath of race, war, violence, and genocide in the U.S. and Germany from the Civil War through the world wars and the Civil Rights Movement. We will explore contemporary theories of how race is constructed, how people are “othered” and dehumanized, and how ritual violence (and resistance to it) has operated in two countries with particularly troubling racial histories. We will also explore the question of how racial terrorism (arguably) never devolved into full-scale genocide in America, where one might have supposed that to be highly possible from the 1890s forward, while it did in twentieth-century Germany, despite that country’s recent history of Jewish emancipation. Finally, we will explore the aftermath of race and violence in the post-World War II era through the U.S. Civil Rights movement, the significance of American “black culture” for Germans, and the presence in western Germany of African-Americans who belonged to the U.S. army of occupation.

Required Readings

Books (available for purchase in bookstore)

Leon Litwack, *How Free Is Free?* (L)

John W. Dower, *War without Mercy. Race and Power in the Pacific War* (D)

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide*, 2nd ed. (B)

Articles/Sources/Documents (in course reader available for purchase in bookstore, and some available online as noted). Note: These will be referred to by number on the syllabus below

- 1) Eric Foner, selections from *Forever Free*, 151-158, 181-224
- 2) Leon Litwack, “Hellhounds,” from *Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow*
- 3) Portions of “A Report by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot,” pp. 21-103, from A Report by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, pp. 21-103, also available at <http://www.okhistory.org/trrc/freport.htm>
- 4) Charles Payne, “Debating the Civil Rights Movement: The View from the Trenches,” from *Debating the Civil Rights Movement*, eds. Steven Lawson and Charles Payne, pp. 115-55
- 5) Martin Luther King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (also widely available online)
- 6) Audrey Smedley, “Science and the Cultural Construction of the Idea of Race,” from *Many Americas: A Critical Perspective*
- 7) Marion Kaplan, “Social Life,” from *Jewish Daily Life in Germany, 1618-1945*
- 8) Alexander Laban Hinton, “The Dark Side of Modernity: Toward an Anthropology of Genocide,” chapter 1 of *Annihilating Difference: The Anthropology of Genocide*

- 9) Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Wippermann, "Barbarism Institutionalised: Racism as State Policy," chapter 3 of *The Racial State: Germany, 1933-1945*
- 10) Helmut Walser Smith, "Konitz, 1900: Ritual Murder and Antisemitic Violence," from Christhard Hoffmann et al., eds., *Exclusionary Violence: Antisemitic Riots in Modern German History*
- 11) Christopher Browning, "German Killers: Behavior and Motivation in the Light of New Evidence," from *Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers*
- 12) Uta Poiger, "American Music, Cold War Liberalism, and German Identities," chapter 6 of *Transactions, Transgressions, Transformations: American Culture in Western Europe and Japan*
- 13) Heide Fehrenbach, "Whose Children, Theirs or Ours: Intercountry Adoptions and Debates About Belonging," from *Race After Hitler: Black Occupation Children in Postwar Germany and America*

Also

United Nations 1948, "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide," available online, for example, www.hrweb.org/legal/genocide.html

Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission Papers, online at http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/sovcom/

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, Chapter 11, "Nation and Race," copies available on reserve and online at http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/mkv1ch11.html

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS AND FILMS
Jan. 19	Introduction	introductory exercises and film
Jan. 26	Race: Definitions and Practice in the 19 th Century	Reader, 1 and 6
Feb. 2	Racial Violence in Post-Civil War America: Pre-History of Genocide?	L, chapter 1; Reader, 2
Feb. 9	Tulsa and Konitz: Murder and Ritual Violence in the U.S. and Germany	Reader, 3 and 10
Feb. 16	Germans, Jews, and Race 1 st short paper due	Reader, 7; Chapter XI, <i>Mein Kampf</i>
Feb. 23	War and Genocide, Part I	B, all
Mar. 2	War and Genocide, Part II	B, all; Reader, 9, 11
Mar. 9	War and Violence in the Pacific, I	D, 1 st half; film <i>Why We Fight</i>
Mar. 16	War and Violence in the Pacific, II	D, 2 nd half; L, chapter 2

SPRING BREAK

Mar. 30	WW II: Race, War, and Genocide in Comparative Perspective	MIDTERM PAPERS DUE Portions of <i>Shoah</i>
Apr. 6	Accounting for the Past, and the Post War Police State	UN Genocide Conv. And Mississippi State Sov. Commission, both online
Apr. 13	Civil Rights	L, chapter 3; Reader, 4 and 5 segments of <i>Eyes on the Prize</i>
Apr. 20	Race, Liberalism, and Postwar Germany	Reader, 12, 13
Apr. 27	Race and Genocide in Comparative Perspective	Reader, 8
May 4	Race, Violence, and Genocide Today	Frontline <i>Rwanda</i>
May 11	Final Papers Due	

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

1 ST Paper (Feb 16)	20%
Midterm paper (March 23)	30%
Final paper (May 11)	30%
Short Article Summary/Critiques and Class Part.	10%
Online research Summary/Analysis (Apr. 6)	10%

HOUSE RULES FOR COURTESY AND RESPECT

Attendance and class participation will be considered as part of the overall course grade. Those who have prior obligations, athletic events, family responsibilities will be expected to consult with me in advance on absences.

Please show respect and courtesy to all. Minimally, this includes the following:

- 1) Please do not wander in and out of the classroom during class time itself. You will have a regular break in the middle of each class session, so please wait until then to enter and exit the classroom, instant message your buddies, check the basketball scores, buy Doritos, etc.**
- 2) Please turn off cell phones, PDAs, instant messaging gadgets, and other disruptive devices.
- 3) Please address your fellow students in a civil manner. Argue passionately but respectfully.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of material from others without attribution. Plagiarism will result in an automatic F for this course, and possibly other consequences including suspension or expulsion from the university.

Special Note: If you have a disability for which you are requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact Disability Services within the first week of classes. Disability Services is located in Main Hall # 105. DS phone # is 255-3354.