

Seminar in Social Theory  
(Geography 8920)  
Special Topic: Geographies of Violence and Power

Fall 2001  
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It is funny about wars, they ought to be different, but they are not.  
Gertrude Stein, *Wars I Have Seen*, 1945.

This seminar explores the dialectics of violence through critical readings of contemporary debates in social theory concerning the relationship between violence, power and space. What is the role of violence in the construction of power? Who does violence help, and whom does it hurt? How does violence (and/or its absence) shape the place and space of everyday existence? Our central concern will be to interrogate the phenomena of violence within the theoretical framework of critical legal geographies. We will explore violence at various scales; the body, the community, the nation, and the international arena. How does violence in its various forms intersect and influence the production of space?

Requirements:

There are three areas of responsibility for seminar members:

- 1) *Weekly readings and discussions*: Seminar members should make a sustained effort to engage in a constructive conversation concerning the assigned readings. To facilitate this interaction, students will write brief (one page) responses to that week's key readings, unless otherwise instructed.
- 2) *Oral Presentations*: Students will take turns leading discussions on seminar readings, as well as make a short (20 minute) presentation concerning a particular research topic.
- 3) *Final Paper*: To Be Negotiated. As class members are at various stages in their graduate careers/research, each student can make arrangements for completion of a paper that furthers his/her studies. May I suggest:
  - a) A book review (8-10 pages) of a work new, relevant and exciting in your area of interest;
  - b) A research prospectus/funding proposal (10 pages);
  - c) An introductory chapter to a thesis in progress.

Final Papers are due December 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **COURSE OUTLINE:**

### Week One: Introduction.

Sachs, Albie. 2000. *The Soft Vengeance of a Freedom Fighter*. University of California Press.

Watts, Michael J. 2000. "Geographies of violence and the narcissism of minor difference," in *Struggles over geography: Violence, freedom and development at the millennium*. Department of Geography, University of Heidelberg. (Course Packet)

### Week Two: The Holocaust (with a capital "H.")

Levi, Primo. 1998. *The Drowned and the Saved*. Vintage Books.

Bartov, Omer. 1996. *Murder in Our Midst: The Holocaust, Industrial Killing, and Representation*. Oxford University Press.

### Week Three: Killers at War.

Bourke, Joanna. 1999. *An Intimate History of Killing: face-to-face killing in twentieth-century warfare*. Basic Books.

Scarry, Elaine. 1999. "The Difficulty of Imagining Other Persons," in *Human Rights in Political Transitions; Gettysburg to Bosnia*. Carla Hesse and Robert Post, editors. Zone Books; New York. (Course Packet)

Movie: *Gallipoli*

### Week Four: Identities in Conflict.

Mamdani, Mahmood. 2001. *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*. Princeton University Press.

Vistica, Gregory L. "What Happened in Thanh Phong," *The New York Times Magazine*, April 29, 2001.

Video: *Forsaken Cries*

### Week Five: The Traumatized Body and Its Narrative.

Scarry, Elaine. 1984. *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World*. Oxford University Press.

Feldman, Allen. 1991. "Artifacts and Instruments of Agency" in *Formations of Violence: The Narrative of the Body and Political Terror in Northern Ireland*. The University of Chicago Press.

Hernan, Judith. "Introduction," "Chapter One" and "Chapter Two" in *Trauma and Recovery: the aftermath of violence --from domestic abuse to political terror*. Basic Books, 1992. Pages 1-50 (Course Packet)

Week Six: The Power to Punish.

Foucault, Michel. 1979. *Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison*. Vintage Books.

Week Seven: Systemized Terror.

Taussig, Michael. "Terror as Usual: Walter Benjamin's Theory of History as a State of Siege," in *The Nervous System* Routledge, New York, 1992. (Course Packet).

Nordstrom, Carolyn. 1997 "Creativity, Violence and the Scholar," in *A Different Kind of War Story*, University of Pennsylvania Press.

Coates, Peter. 1999. "'Unusually Cunning, Vicious and Treacherous': The Extermination of the Wolf in United States History" in *The Massacre in History*, Mark Levene and Penny Roberts, editors. Berghahn Books, New York.

Week Eight: Memory and History

Lappen, Elena. 1999 "The Man with Two Heads" in *Granta*, Summer 1999 (Course Packet)

Borges, Jorge Luis. "Funes the Memorious" in *Labyrinths*, New Directions Publishing Corporations, 1962. Pages 59-66. (Course Packet)

Winter, Jay and Emmanuel Sivan. 1999 "Introduction" and "Setting the Framework" in *War and Remembrance in the Twentieth Century*, Winter and Sivan, editors. Cambridge University Press. (Course Packet)

Week Nine: Case Study-- Balkanization.

Mertus, Julie. 1999 *Kosovo: How Myths and Truths Started a War*. ("Notes on Terms and Concepts" and "Introduction"). University of California Press. (Course Packet)

Verdery, Katherine. 1999. *The Political Lives of Dead Bodies: Reburial and Post-Socialist Change*. Columbia University Press.

Okey, Robin. 1999. "The Legacy of Massacre; The 'Jasenovac Myth' and the Breakdown of Communist Yugoslavia" in *The Massacre in History*, Mark Levene and Penny Roberts, editors. Berghahn Books, New York. (Course Packet)

#### Week Ten: What's Gender Got to Do With It?

Lorentzen, Lois Ann and Jennifer Turpin, editors. 1998. *The Women and War Reader*. New York University Press, New York.

Excerpts available in Course Packet:

Enloe, Cynthia. "All the Men Are in the Militias, All the Women are Victims"

Copelon, Rhonda. "Surfacing Gender: Reconceptualizing Crimes against Women in Time of War."

Nordstrom, Carolyn. "Girls Behind the (Front) Lines."

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. "Maternal Thinking and the Politics of War."

Movie: *Boys Don't Cry*

#### Week Eleven: Daily News and Extraordinary Violence.

Robbins, Bruce. 1999. "Sad Stories in the International Public Sphere" in *Feeling Global: Internationalism in Distress*. New York University Press.

Moeller, Susan D. 2000 "Covering War" in *Compassion Fatigue; How the Media Sell Disease, Famine, War and Death*. Routledge, London. (Course Packet)

#### Week Twelve: The Global Civil Society.

Guidry, John A, Michael D. Kennedy, and Mayer N. Zald editors. 2000. *Globalization and Social Movements; Culture, Power and the Transnational Public Sphere*. Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Press.

Excerpts available in Course Packet:

Guidry, et. all: "Globalization and Social Movements."

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. "Historical Precursors to Modern Transnational Social Movements and Networks."

Ball, Patrick. "State Terror, Constitutional Traditions, and National Human Rights Movements: A Cross-National Quantitative Comparison."

Week Thirteen: The (Imagined) International Community

Goldmann, Kjell Ulf Hannerz, and Charles Westin, editors. 2000. *Nationalism and Internationalism in the Post- Cold War Era*. Routledge, London and New York.

Excerpts available in Course Packet:

Shami, Seteney. "The little nation: minorities and majorities in the context of shifting geographies."

Appadurai, Arjun. "The grounds of the nation-state: identity, violence and territory."

Baubock, Rainer. "Why secession is not like divorce."

Tamir, Yael. "Who's afraid of a global state?"

Ford, Richard T. 2001. "Law's Territory (A History of Jurisdiction)," in the *Legal Geographies Reader; Law, Power and Space*. Blomley, Nicholas, David Delaney and Richard Ford, editors. Blackwell Publishers. (Course Reader)

Movie: *The Seventh Million: The State of Israel and Holocaust Memory*

Weeks Fourteen and Fifteen: Questions and Conclusions.

Presentations

Catch-Up

Dinner Party: Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 225 Parkway, Athens GA.