Description of the course: Mass killings have occurred at all times in history. The 20th century, however, stands out in intensity, frequency and the means applied to kill great numbers of innocent people. Regrettably, the 21st century looks no different. From the Herero’s in Namibia in 1904 to the current conflict in Darfur, perfectly innocent people have been killed in large numbers due to their ethnicity, social origin, political beliefs, sexual preferences and many other reasons.

The objective of the course is to analyze this sad record of atrocities. What are the typical causes of genocide and what sociological and psychological mechanisms turn people into perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers - and victims? The international responses to genocide, mass killings and ethnic cleansing have varied from turning a blind eye to military intervention. After genocide has taken place, punishment, commemoration and reconciliation can all be important remedies in addressing the aftermath and preventing new outbreaks of violence. Unfortunately, so far neither the modern state nor the international system of states has succeeded in preventing genocide. So what are the chances of preventing future genocides? And can obvious measures, such as punishment, work if the genocide is already in the making?

The course will offer both a theoretical framework and a more practical approach, particularly from the perspective of international relations. Definitions of genocide, methodology and theories of the phenomena of genocide will be discussed. This will include addressing the theoretical and practical implications of terming something a genocide. The possible singularity of the Holocaust (and other genocides) will be addressed. Are there common denominators to genocide, such as basic causes or certain stages that all genocides pass though? Furthermore, a number of specific genocides will be analyzed and discussed, as will other cases of mass violence in order to analyze what triggered them, how they unfolded and how they ended.

Prerequisites
Students are required to have background knowledge of general history and/or political science and/or sociology.
Final Syllabus

Lecturer:
Torben Jørgensen
Phone: +45 26 54 44 04

Cand. mag. in History, U. of Copenhagen; with the Danish Center for Holocaust and genocide research (2000-2003); with the Danish Institute for International Studies (2003-2005); Project Manager at the Danish Jewish Museum (2007-2008).

Learning objectives of the course: After finishing the course, students should have an overall command of the methods and problems related to studying genocides and the Holocaust. They should, furthermore, possess a solid knowledge of the factors behind the most notable and well studied examples of genocide (Armenia 1915, the Holocaust 1933-1945, Cambodia 1975-1979, Bosnia 1992-1995 and Rwanda 1994) as well as Stalinism 1928-1953 and know the constituent events and interpretative problems related to these events. Finally, it is expected that students are able to discuss and analyze such cross cutting issues as genocide denial, punishment and prevention.

Attendance
You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor’s note.

Academic Honesty
Plagiarism and Violating the Rules of an Assignment
DIS expects that students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of “F” and can result in dismissal. The students’ home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the Academic Handbook for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

You must turn in all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the class.

Disability and resource statement: Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Academic Support (acadsupp@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.

Study Tour Section C: (April 8-9)
Trip to Hamburg and Neuengamme Concentration Camp near Hamburg: The trip will depart early on Saturday morning and will return late Sunday night. More information to come as the date nears.

Exams, assignments and grading
Attendance in all classes, the field study, and study tour is mandatory. The final grade will be based on the following evaluation:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis statement</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
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The instructor will give a detailed description of what is expected of students in order to earn a high grade in participation. Guidelines and expectations for the final research paper will be given in class. Late papers or assignments will not be accepted.
Final Syllabus

Schedule – dates, topics, assignments:

**Class 1: Friday, January 20th**
Introduction: What are genocide studies and how will we go about it?
Binder text 1, Deborah Harris: *Defining genocide: Defining history?*

**Class 2: Tuesday, January 24th**
Definitions of genocide.

**Class 3: Friday, January 27th**
Armenian genocide I.

**Class 4: Tuesday, January 31st**
Armenian genocide II, denial.
Election of Class representative.

**Class 5: Friday, February 3rd**
Holocaust I.

**DIS Core Course Week – No class**

**Class 6: Tuesday, February 14th**
Holocaust II, the camp system.
Handout.

**Class 7: Friday, February 17th**
Holocaust III, victims.

**Class 8: Tuesday, February 21st**
Holocaust IV, perpetrators.

**Class 9: Friday, February 24th**
Holocaust V, rescuers.
Text: TBA

**DIS Travel Break/Study Tours, Feb 25-Mar 5**
Class 10: Tuesday, March 7th
Holocaust VI, Denmark & the rescue of the Jews.

Class 11: Friday, March 10th
Photos.

Class 12: Tuesday, March 14th
Genocide in historical perspective I.

Class 13: Friday, March 17th
Genocide in historical perspective II.

**DIS Travel Break/Study Tours, March 18-26**

Class 14: Tuesday, March 28th
Stalinist genocide.
Study tour preparation.

Class 15: Friday, March 31st
Cambodia.
Film: Killing Fields (or S-21 doc)
*Hand in thesis for final paper*

Class 16: Tuesday, April 4th
Cambodia. Research paper supervision

Class 17: Friday, April 7th
Research paper supervision

**Study tour to Hamburg/ Neuengamme, April 8-9**

Class 18: Tuesday, April 11
Bosnia I.
Film: The Grave.

**DIS Travel Break, April 12-17**
Class 19: Tuesday, April 18
Bosnia II.
Binder text 12, Phillip Bobbit: The Shield of Archeilleus. The Kitty Genovese Incident and the War in Bosnia.

Class 20: Friday, April 21
Rwanda I.

Class 21: Tuesday, April 25
Rwanda II.

Class 22: Friday, April 28
Darfur.
*Hand in final paper at beginning of class*

Class 23: Tuesday, May 2
Wrapping it all up: What did we learn?