

“Auschwitz - Politics of Genocide”

Academic Course/Field Trip for credit

Prof. Gabriele Simoncini
(Ph.D. Columbia University)

Study Session - Rome

Travel Session - Krakow

HIGHLIGHTS

A unique academic and life experience.

“Experience Education” taught at the highest academic levels and designed for students “hands on” principle of knowledge transferring and experiencing

Course Description

The course is articulated in two sections. The first consists of introductory lectures and audiovisual materials analyzed in the classroom. The second consists of a field trip to Poland, Krakow and Auschwitz.

The field trip is based in Krakow, Poland, the capital city of a region that witnessed some of the greatest atrocities in European history. The visit covers the diversity of identities including Polish, Jewish, German, Ukrainian, Tatar, “Gypsies”, “Galicians”, others; analyzing the intricacies of ethnic, religious, and cultural factors.

Students are offered on site lecturing on the historical, political, and social aspects of the area and the genocidal policies suffered under both Nazi and Communist regimes. Students are guided through the region, seeing for themselves the places (focus on Auschwitz) that witnessed the worst crimes in recent history and honoring those who suffered there.

The class is taught in Rome and guided in Poland, by Professor Gabriele Simoncini (*Ph.D. Columbia University*) a multilingual scholar, expert on identity politics and genocide. He lived several years in Poland as an academic researcher. The goal is to precisely guide students into the discovery of the conundrum of a tragic, bloody, mysterious, and uniquely fascinating European land.

Aims and Objectives

The course aims to:

- make students aware of the main theories on ethno-politics and genocidal politics
- give students conceptual tools to understand the socio cultural ‘otherness’
- explore the mentality of the “national” and the “cosmopolitan” in Europe
- provide the students with an understanding of how identity politics affect socio-cultural changes and the construction of individual and collective identities

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the main theories of genocide and identity politics
- demonstrate an understanding of identity plurality in terms of ethnicity, religion, and culture
- demonstrate possession of the conceptual tools to understand socio cultural ‘otherness’
- demonstrate an understanding of the “national” and the “cosmopolitan” mentality in Europe

Teaching Methods

Teaching methods blend: lecturing, analyzing materials, site-seeing, and discussion.

Lectures covers general subjects and, with the support of audiovisual materials, synthesizes relevant concepts, paradigms, theories, and case-studies. Students produce presentations and reports.

The field trip is a dynamic, uncompromised “experience education,” accompanied by questioning and group discussion.

Assessment Criteria

- Participation to preparatory session	before the field trip	25%
- Field trip participation	during the field trip	50%
- Final research paper	after the field trip	25%
		Total 100%

Required Texts/Reading

- Reader, produced in-house and distributed to the students

Recommended Readings

- YIVO Institute New York, *Image before My Eyes*. YIVO 2006
- Snyder T., *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin*. Vintage 2011
- Dylewski A., *Polish Jews and Their Culture*. Pascal 2010
- Bauman Z., *Modernity and The Holocaust*. Polity 2001
- Simoncini G., “National Minorities of Poland at the End of the Twentieth Century.” *The Polish Review* 43/1998

Program

Unit 1 Rome

Genocide. Eastern Europe. Ethno-politics and genocide in Poland.

Unit 2 Rome

Audiovisual materials analysis and discussion, including: *Schindler's List*, *Man of Marble*, *Katyn*, *A Yiddish World Remembered*.

Unit 3 Rome

National identities of Krakow's area in historical perspective. Poles, Jews, Germans, Ukrainians, Tatars, “Gypsies,” “Galicians.”

Unit 4 Krakow

Karzymierz Jewish Quarter. Jewish Cemetery. Galicja Museum. Synagogues. Ritual Bath. Slaughterhouse. Jewish Ghetto and Walls. Schindler's Factory. Płaszów Concentration Camp.

Unit 5 Krakow

Auschwitz - Birkenau. Oświęcim Synagogue. Kopiec Kosciuszko. Gestapo Headquarters and Prison. Ukrainian Cultural Center.

Unit 6 Krakow

Wieliczka. Communist Nowa Huta. “Gypsy” community.

“Auschwitz - Politics of Genocide”

Academic Course/Field Trip for credits

INFO

Course typology: “Experience Education” Course/Field Trip for credit

Academic areas: Politics, History, Religion, Sociology, Globalization, Human Rights, Genocide

Total Hours: 35 hours
15 hours: frontal lecturing
6 hours: audiovisual material guide screening
14 hours: focused guided site seeing

Participants: 12 Students

Lecturer/guide: Prof. Gabriele Simoncini (*Ph.D. Columbia University*)
offering the course in English, Polish, Italian, other languages

Recent Editions: October 2016, March 2016, October 2015, March 2015, November 2014

Current / Past Programs & Testimonials in: www.gabrielesimoncini.it

Organization: GENF *International Consulting* gsimoncini@genf.it
Contact: Gabriele Simoncini Mobile: +39 340 581 7820 www.gabrielesimoncini.it
Note: The program is adaptable to specific needs