

COURSE FRAMEWORK

TITLE:

Holocaust and Totalitarianism- Journeys through Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic

NUMBER: 365-HSA-VA

PONDERATION: 1-2-3

CREDIT(S): 2

PREREQUISITES: None - Universal Complementary

DESCRIPTION:

This International Study Course seeks to understand the impacts of two phenomena that have haunted the world for the past century: Genocide and Totalitarianism. The course will open with an understanding of the terms genocide and totalitarianism by way of a survey of definitions and instances of these occurrences. Our study will focus on 20th century genocide, the actual events associated with genocide and the aftermath of the atrocities. Our analysis of totalitarianism will focus on what Communism is and how the ideology was thwarted in East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia. These topics will be addressed from a multi-disciplinary approach that will include history, literature, economics, politics, science and philosophy. The theoretical component of the course will then be enriched with an intensive study-experience in Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. The International experience will include guided city visits, museums, and concentration camps in Berlin, Krakow, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Prague. Students will visit sites associated with the themes analyzed in the course and will also have the opportunity to reflect upon their experiences. Furthermore, students will be given time to explore the cultural diversity of Eastern Europe through food, language, architecture, and art.

STATEMENT OF COMPETENCY:

021L: To consider contemporary issues from a cross-disciplinary perspective.

Achievement Context:

As this course draws on several disciplines of learning, students will be assessed, in part, using their choice of the following media: travel blogs, oral presentations, slide shows and short films to be used in a presentation. Additionally, in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the

course, students will write an essay of a minimum of 750 words.

Element 1: To identify major contemporary issues.

Performance Criteria	Learning Outcomes
<p>1. Description of the main perspectives.</p> <p>Correct description of the main perspectives.</p> <p>Clear formulation of objects to study related to these issues</p>	<p>Student will be able to:</p> <p>1.1 Explore 20th century outbreaks of genocide perpetrated against Armenians, Jews, Cambodians and Rwandans.</p> <p>1.2 Explore instances of state totalitarianism in Eastern Europe during the 20th century.</p> <p>1.3 Define genocide from various perspectives that include Raphael Lemkin's definition, the United Nations Convention against Genocide and an academic understanding of the term.</p> <p>1.4 Define totalitarianism using examples from 20th century regimes.</p>

Element 2: To recognize the specific role of several disciplines in the understanding of an issue.

Performance Criteria	Learning Outcomes
<p>2. Description of some of the theories used in analyzing the issue.</p> <p>Clear description of the concepts and methods used.</p> <p>Clear formulation of the perspectives of the issue.</p>	<p>The Students will be able to:</p> <p>2.1 Describe the notion of genocide and totalitarianism via historic, literary, economic, political, scientific and philosophical approaches.</p> <p>2.2 Explain motivations that lead to modern outbreaks of genocide.</p> <p>2.3 Describe the motivations that led to the Holocaust.</p> <p>2.4 Explain the meaning and objectives of Communism.</p> <p>2.5 Describe how the goals of Communism in Eastern Europe were superseded by totalitarian politics.</p>

Element 3: To demonstrate the contribution of several disciplines to the understanding of a contemporary issue.

Performance Criteria	Learning Outcomes
<p>3. Precise description of the main contributions of the</p>	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <p>3.1 Demonstrate the contribution of history, literature, economics, politics, science and</p>

<p>disciplines.</p> <p>Pertinent explanation of the interaction among several disciplines.</p> <p>Appropriate use of language and concepts from the disciplines.</p>	<p>philosophy to the understanding of Genocide and Totalitarianism.</p> <p>3.2 Explain how history, literature, economics politics, science and philosophy played a role in fermenting communal hatred in the 20th century.</p> <p>3.3 Explain how politics, economics and philosophy influenced the rise of Totalitarianism.</p> <p>3.4 Appropriate use of language and concepts associated with the study of genocide and totalitarianism.</p> <p>3.5 Students will be responsible for a number of projects including a 750 word essay. Furthermore, students will be expected to participate in the Holocaust Symposium, traditionally held in April at the college, via a workshop which will display various forms of student work completed during the class. These may include video presentation, journal entries and photo slideshows.</p>
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