

COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Mass Atrocities & International Intervention	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Dr Thomas Peak	Institute of International Relations and Political
	Science (IIRPS)
Other: -	Vokiečių g. 10, Vilnius 01130

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First	Independent Study Module

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction		
In-person	Fall semester	English		

if relevant): English (B2)
if

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	48	82

Purpose of the course unit

This course provides an introduction to contemporary debates around mass atrocity crimes (genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity) and international norms and practices intended to prevent them. The course's disciplinary approach spans from anthropology, sociology, and history, to political science, criminology, and law. Against the background of such diverse disciplinary perspectives, it explores the role(s) of episodes of mass atrocities in international politics, through understanding their origins, manner of perpetration, and termination; their impact on international peace and security; and how they are memorialised, given meaning, and understood. Through a particular focus on the Responsibility to Protect, an international norm adopted at the 2005 World Summit, and the International Criminal Court, an international tribunal established by the Rome Statutes in 1998, the course will equip students with an understanding of critical issues surrounding the prevention of these most serious international crimes. By participating in this course, students will be able to use conceptual tools to critically analyse key concepts and important developments in contemporary international affairs. They will be able to distinguish the distinct types of international crimes which constitute mass atrocities and understand both how serious human rights abuses unfold, and the promise and limits of international responses.

- * <u>Attendance and participation at seminars is compulsory. Non-attendance at more than 3 seminars will</u> result in an automatic fail.
- * Failure to participate in any one element of assessment results in an automatic fail.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
will be able to use appropriate conceptual	Introductory lectures, seminars	Participation in seminars, exam
tools in order to critically analyse key	(analysis of the leading literature and	(final research essay), assessed
concepts within the evolving	completed projects in the field),	seminar presentations
contemporary international order	flipped classrooms, assignments and	

	creative tasks, student-centric learning
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will be able to distinguish the distinct	Problem-oriented lectures, seminars
types of international crimes which	(text analysis, comparative assessment
constitute academic and political	and systemic analysis of
understandings of mass atrocities	practical issues, case study, oral
will have developed collaborative	presentations on assigned topics,
research, discussion, and presentation	group discussions), individual studies
skills useful for their further academic	(individual search of information,
and professional development.	critical literature studies and the
	analysis of theoretical and practical
	problems)

Recommended preparatory readings

Some of the following texts provide useful insights to the general, conceptual problems approached in this course, as well as detailed analysis of specific historical and contemporary case studies.

- Bloxham, Donald, and A. Dirk Moses, eds. Genocide: Key Themes. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.
- Glanville, Luke. *Sharing Responsibility: The History and Future of Protection from Atrocities*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2021.
- Quinton-Brown, Patrick. *Intervention before Interventionism: A Global Genealogy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024.
- Finnemore, Martha. *The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs about the Use of Force*. Cornell Studies in Security Affairs. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2003.
- Leader Maynard, Jonathan. *Ideology and Mass Killing: The Radicalized Security Politics of Genocides and Deadly Atrocities*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.
- Moses, A. Dirk. *The Problems of Genocide: Permanent Security and the Language of Transgression*. Human Rights in History. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.
- Hinton, Alexander Laban, Andrew Woolford, and Jeff Benvenuto, eds. *Colonial Genocide in Indigenous North America*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2014.
- Gerlach, Christian. The Extermination of the European Jews. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- Prunier, Gérard. *Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Pinaud, Clémence. War and Genocide in South Sudan. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2021.
- Roberts, Sean R. The War on the Uyghurs. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020.

The following journals publish regular articles on issues related to this course.

- Global Responsibility to Protect.
- International Affairs.
- Journal of Genocide Research.
- Ethics and International Affairs.
- Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding.
- Security Dialogue.

	Con	tact h	ours		Individual work: time and assignments				
Content	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. Course introduction			2				2	5	Compulsory reading:
Introduction to course; Expectations and assessments;									- Harff, Barbara. "No Lessons Learned

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Course road-map.								from the Holocaust?
								Assessing Risks of
								Genocide and
								Political Mass
								Murder since 1955."
								The American
								Political Science
								Review 97, no. 1
								(2003): 57–73.
								- Moses, A. Dirk.
								The Problems of
								Genocide:
								Permanent Security
								and the Language of
								Transgression.
								Human Rights in
								History. Cambridge:
								Cambridge
								University Press,
								2021. Introduction.
2. What are mass atrocities?			2			2	5	Compulsory reading:
II. to do it it								II.1/ D 1
How has the idea of genocide evolved								- Holá, Barbara,
over time?								Hollie Nyseth
What are the differences between								Nzitatira, and
genocide and crimes against humanity?								Maartje
Does the 'genocide' label remain useful?								Weerdesteijn.
								"Introduction:
								Atrocity Crimes and
								Atrocity Studies." In
								The Oxford
								Handbook on
								Atrocity Crimes,
								edited by Barbara
								Holá, Hollie Nyseth
								Nzitatira, and
								Maartje
								Weerdesteijn.
								Oxford: Oxford
								University Press,
								2022.
								- Global Centre for
								the Responsibility to
								Protect. "Defining
								the Four Mass
								Atrocity Crimes."
								New York, August 15, 2018.
								https://www.globalr2
								p.org/publications/de
								fining-the-four-mass- atrocity-crimes/.
								- "Convention on the
								Prevention and
								Punishment of the
								Crime of Genocide."
								UN General
								Assembly, December
	<u> </u>	1						9, 1948.

						- International Criminal Court. "Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Last Amended 2010)," 2011. https://www.icc- cpi.int/resource- library/Documents/R S-Eng.pdf. Articles 5-9. - "Draft Articles on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity." International Law Commission, 2019.
3. Why and how do mass atrocities		2		2	5	Compulsory reading:
happen? Can we identify transhistorical processes which lead to mass atrocity? What is the role of ideology?						- Leader Maynard, Jonathan. Ideology and Mass Killing: The Radicalized Security Politics of Genocides and Deadly Atrocities. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022. Introduction Straus, Scott. Making and Unmaking Nations: War, Leadership, and Genocide in Modern Africa. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015. Chapter 3.
4. How do mass atrocities end?		2		2	5	Compulsory reading:
What are the tools available to confront atrocities? What does it mean to say that atrocities 'end'?						- Conley-Zilkic, Bridget. "Introduction." In How Mass Atrocities End: Studies from Guatemala, Burundi, Indonesia, the Sudans, Bosnia- Herzegovina, and Iraq, edited by Bridget Conley- Zilkic. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016. - Uzonyi, Gary, and Matthew S. Wells. "Coups and the End

						of Mass-Killing Episodes." Journal of Global Security Studies 8, no. 2 (2023): 1–16 Conley, Bridget, and Chad Hazlett. "How Very Massive Atrocities End: A Dataset and Typology." Journal of Peace Research 58, no. 3 (2021): 612–20.
5. Atrocities, war, and global international		2		2	5	Compulsory reading:
what is the connection between war and mass atrocities? In what ways do atrocities shape the international system and vice versa?						- Shaw, Martin. "War and Genocide: A Sociological Approach Sciences Po Violence de masse et Résistance - Réseau de recherche," November 4, 2007. https://www.sciencespo.fr/mass-violencewar-massacreresistance/fr/document/war-and-genocidesociological-approach.html Prunier, Gérard. Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. Introduction and pp 24 - 36 Demmers, Jolle. "Armed Conflict and Atrocities: Understanding Power Dynamics." In The Oxford Handbook on Atrocity Crimes, edited by Barbora Holá, Hollie Nyseth Nzitatira, and Maartje Weerdesteijn. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.
6. Remembering, forgetting, and counting		2		2	5	Compulsory reading:

What are the political uses of memorialising atrocity? What are the some of the mechanisms through which some memories and some experiences of atrocities are marginalised?					- Moses, A. Dirk. The Problems of Genocide: Permanent Security and the Language of Transgression.
					Human Rights in History. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. Chapter 12 Meierhenrich, Jens. "How Many Victims Were There in the
					Rwandan Genocide? A Statistical Debate." Journal of Genocide Research 22, no. 1 (2020): 72–82.
7. Rape and sexual violence as mass atrocity	2		2	5	Compulsory reading:
How pervasive is sexual violence in conflict? What are the purposes of sexual violence as atrocity?					- Meger, Sara. "Sexual Violence as an Element of Genocide." In Rape Loot Pillage: The Political Economy of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict, edited by Sara Meger, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. - Wood, Elisabeth Jean, and Kim Thuy Seelinger. "Sexual Violence as a Practice of War: Implications for the Investigation and Prosecution of Atrocity Crime." In The Oxford Handbook of Atrocity Crimes, edited by Barbara Holá, Hollie Nyseth Brehm, and Maartje Weerdesteijn. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.
8. Consultation week: no class					
9. What is the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP)?	2		2	5	Compulsory reading:
Where did RtoP come from? What are the three pillars of RtoP?					- Bellamy, Alex J., and Tim Dunne. "R2P in Theory and Practice." In <i>The</i>

Does RtoP represent a 'revolution in sovereignty'? Does RtoP represent a 'revolution in sovereignty'?	ty to by and ford: ity n, to nium ary of the
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Ottawa, Decem)CI
2001. Pp 1 -19	
- World Summi	
Outcome Docum	
paragraphs 138	
10. RtoP, military intervention, and 2 5 Compulsory rea	ding:
regime change	
- Bellamy, Alex	J.,
Does military intervention work?	
Why has the resort to force within RtoP McLoughlin.	
been so controversial? "Genocide and	
How did the intervention in Libya shape Military	
the prospects for human protection under Intervention." In	1
RtoP? Genocide: Key	L
Themes, edited	
Donald Bloxhar	a and
A. Dirk Moses.	
Oxford: Oxford	
University Pres	,
- Ignatieff, Micl	ıael.
"The Responsib	
to Protect in a	
Changing World	1
Order: Twenty	
since Its Incepti	on.
Ethics &	
International Aj	
35, no. 2 (Augu	st
2021): 177–80.	
- Pattison, Jame	s.
"The Internation	
Responsibility t	
Protect in a Pos	
Liberal Order."	
Liberal Order. International St	d:
Quarterly 65, n	
(December 202	ı):
891–904.	
11. Atrocity prevention and RtoP 2 5 Compulsory rea	ding:

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How can RtoP prevent atrocities from occurring? To what extent is there a tension in RtoP between 'prevention' and 'reaction'?						- United Nations Joint Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide & Special Advisor on the Responsibility to Protect. "Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes: A Tool for Prevention." New York: United Nations, 2014 Reike, Ruben, Serena K. Sharma, and Jennifer M. Welsh. "Conceptualizing the Responsibility to Prevent." In The Responsibility to Prevent: Overcoming the Challenges of Atrocity Prevention, edited by Serena K. Sharma and Jennifer M. Welsh. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
12. Critical approaches to RtoP and		2		2	5	Compulsory reading:
atrocity prevention Does RtoP work? How do states contest RtoP? (Why) Should we abandon RtoP?						- Pison Hindawi, Coralie. "Decolonizing the Responsibility to Protect: On Pervasive Eurocentrism, Southern Agency and Struggles over Universals." Security Dialogue 53, no. 1 (2022): 38–56. - Bohm, Alexandra, and Garrett Wallace Brown. "R2P and Prevention: The International Community and Its Role in the Determinants of Mass Atrocity." Global Responsibility to Protect 13, no. 1 (2021): 60–95. - Hobson, Christopher. "A World Without Alternatives: R2P Meets TINA."

Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1-3. - Moses, Jeremy. "Gaza and the Political and Moral Failure of the Responsibility to Protect." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1-5. - Hehir, Aidan. "The Responsibility to Protect." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1-5. - Hehir, Aidan. "The Responsibility to Protect Debate: An Enduring Black Hole." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1-6. 13. Reading week: no class 14. The International Criminal Court (ICC): promises and pitfalls? What is the ICC and how does it work? To what extent is the ICC 'political'? Why do some states seek to withdraw from the ICC? 14. The International Politics of Justice." In States of Justice. "In States of Justice." In States of Justice." In States of Justice. "The Politics of the International Criminal Court, edited by Oumar Ba. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. - García Iommi, Lucrecia. "Whose Justice?" The ICC 'Africa Problem." International Relations 34, no. 1 (2020): 103–29 International Criminal Court. "About the Court." https://www.wi.cc. ppi.int/about/the-court. - International Criminal Court. "This problem." International Criminal Court. "International Criminal Court." Internat		 1				1	
Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1-9. Mosss, Jeremy. Gaza and Moral Failure of the Responsibility to Protect." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1-5. Hehir, Aidan. "The Responsibility to Protect." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1-5. Hehir, Aidan. "The Responsibility to Protect Debate: An Enduring Black Hole." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1-6. 77 13. Reading week: no class 7 2 2 5 Compulsory reading: (ICC): promises and pitfalls? Ba, Qumar. "The International Politics of Justice." In States Why do some states seek to withdraw from the ICC? in States of Justice." In States of Justice. The Politics of the International Criminal Court, edited by Qumar Ba. Cambridge: Ca							
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							Criminal Court.
"Rome Statute of the							
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						Amended 2010),"
						2011.
						https://www.icc-
						cpi.int/resource- library/Documents/R
						S-Eng.pdf. Articles
						5-9.
15. Case studies and critical reflections		2		2	5	Compulsory reading:
						Kenya (2008): the
						first case of 'RtoP in
						action'?
						- Crossley, Noële. "A
						Model Case of R2P Prevention?
						Mediation in the
						Aftermath of
						Kenya's 2007
						Presidential
						Elections." Global
						Responsibility to Protect 5, no. 2
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						Oxford Handbook of
						the Responsibility to
						<i>Protect</i> , edited by Alex J. Bellamy and
						Timothy Dunne.
						Oxford: Oxford
						University Press,
						2016.
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						death of RtoP?
						- Adams, Simon. "Libya." In <i>The</i>
						Oxford Handbook of
						the Responsibility to
						Protect, edited by
						Alex J. Bellamy and
						Tim Dunne. Oxford: Oxford University
						Press, 2016.
						- Aning, Kwesi, and
						Fiifi Edu-Afful.
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						by African Union
						and ECOWAS in Mali, Cote D'ivoire,
						and Libya."
						International Studies
						Review 18, no. 1
						(2016): 120–33.
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						"Libya and Syria: R2P and the Spectre
				<u> </u>	1	NZF and the Spectre

				of the Swinging
				Pendulum."
				International Affairs
				89, no. 5 (September
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				failure and
				complicity 1(?)
				- Bellamy, Alex J.
				Syria Betrayed:
				Atrocities, War, and
				the Failure of
				International
				Diplomacy. New
				York: Columbia
				University Press,
				2022. Introduction.
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				and Tanzeel Hakak.
				"Syria." In <i>The</i>
				Oxford Handbook of
				the Responsibility to
				<i>Protect</i> , edited by
				Alex J. Bellamy and
				Tim Dunne. Oxford:
				Oxford University
				Press, 2016.
				Gaza and the
				Gaza and the Occupied
				Occupied
				Occupied Palestinian
				Occupied Palestinian Territories (2023-):
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				Occupied Palestinian Territories (2023-): failure and complicity 2(?) - Moses, Jeremy. "Gaza and the Political and Moral Failure of the Responsibility to Protect." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding
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				Occupied Palestinian Territories (2023-): failure and complicity 2(?) - Moses, Jeremy. "Gaza and the Political and Moral Failure of the Responsibility to Protect." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1–5 El-Affendi, Abdelwahab. "The Futility of Genocide Studies After Gaza." Journal of Genocide Research 0, no. 0 (2024): 1–7 Fassin, Didier. "The
				Occupied Palestinian Territories (2023-): failure and complicity 2(?) - Moses, Jeremy. "Gaza and the Political and Moral Failure of the Responsibility to Protect." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1–5 El-Affendi, Abdelwahab. "The Futility of Genocide Studies After Gaza." Journal of Genocide Research 0, no. 0 (2024): 1–7 Fassin, Didier. "The Rhetoric of Denial:
				Occupied Palestinian Territories (2023-): failure and complicity 2(?) - Moses, Jeremy. "Gaza and the Political and Moral Failure of the Responsibility to Protect." Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding Advance online publication (2024): 1–5 El-Affendi, Abdelwahab. "The Futility of Genocide Studies After Gaza." Journal of Genocide Research 0, no. 0 (2024): 1–7 Fassin, Didier. "The
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							Debate about Mass
							Violence in Gaza."
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							- Levene, Mark.
							"Gaza 2023: Words
							Matter, Lives Matter
							More." Journal of
							Genocide Research
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							https://www.globalr2
							p.org/countries/israel
							-and-the-occupied-
							palestinian-territory/.
16. Course review		2			2	5	Review course
							themes and
							open discussion on
							topics
Collaborative seminar presentation	3				3	10	This is a
							collaborative
							research and
							presentation task in
							which student groups
							will analyse a
							key concept,
							institution, or
							practice relevant to
							mass atrocities and
							international intervention.
							intervention.
							Concepts will be
							allocated to groups
							by the course
							instructor. Examples
							may include,
		1	1	1	il .	1	,,
							'Genocide', 'Security
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto',
							'Genocide', 'Security
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty', 'International
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty',
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty', 'International Criminal Court',
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty', 'International Criminal Court', or 'humanitarian intervention'.
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty', 'International Criminal Court', or 'humanitarian intervention'.
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty', 'International Criminal Court', or 'humanitarian intervention'. Presentations should follow
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty', 'International Criminal Court', or 'humanitarian intervention'. Presentations should follow the format:
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty', 'International Criminal Court', or 'humanitarian intervention'. Presentations should follow the format: - Introduction
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty', 'International Criminal Court', or 'humanitarian intervention'. Presentations should follow the format: - Introduction - Definition
							'Genocide', 'Security Council Veto', 'Sovereignty', 'International Criminal Court', or 'humanitarian intervention'. Presentations should follow the format: - Introduction

						- Questions for the
						seminar group
Final research essay	3			3	15	Essay topics may be taken from this course syllabus or they may be generated by the student, pending approval by the course instructor.
						Essay topics must take the form of a question. Essays must be referenced and include a bibliography.
						This is a concluding research task in a scholarly form that reflects an interest in any topic discussed during the course. Length: 1,500-2,000
						words.
Total				36	82	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Seminar participation	20%	During the	Rationale: To discuss relevant course material and
		semester	practice the constructive exchange of ideas.
			Grades will be awarded to students:
			1 point - who demonstrate an understanding of key
			arguments in assigned texts by engaging
			constructively in seminar discussion
			1 point - who pose thoughtful questions during
			the seminar presentations
			* Attendance and participation at seminars is
			compulsory. Non-attendance at more than 3
			seminars will result in an automatic fail.
Collaborative seminar	30%	During the	Rationale: To facilitate comprehension and
presentation		semester	interpretation of key concepts relevant to
			understanding the contemporary international human protection regime and to develop
			collaborative, analytic, and presentation skills.
			conaborative, analytic, and presentation skins.
			Groups will be graded singularly. Students are
			expected to equally participate in the research and
			preparation of the presentations.
			Grades will be awarded to seminar presentations:
			0,5 point - which correctly follow the assigned
			presentation structure
			0,5 point - which deliver clear and well organised
			presentation slides and class handouts
			1 point - which demonstrate substantial

			engagement with the academic literature relevant to the seminar presentation topic 1 point - which present the class with thoughtful and relevant questions to generate class discussion
Exam: Final research	50%	30 June	Rationale: To demonstrate substantive
essay		2024	understanding and analytical skills regarding a chosen topic within international intervention.
			Grades will be awarded to students:
			1,5 points – who follow standard accepted academic practices in form and style
			1,5 points – who demonstrate an appropriate level of engagement with the academic literature relevant to their topic
			2 points – who critically analyse important
			problems posed by the subject matter of this
			course and/or who construct an original argument

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