

What is Genocide and Literary Studies?

Bruno Adorno famously wrote: “To write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric”. And yet, the genocides of the 20th century have inspired some of the greatest creative and academic texts of the 20th century. In this course, students will investigate the genocides of the 20th century using the disciplines of History, Psychology and Sociology. Students will also study related literature and films in order to gain an understanding of different aspects of these events.

The grade 11 students in this class will be together one period a day for an entire year; they will earn two credits (ENG2D and CHG381). We will work with some of the most difficult historical events and the literature that they have inspired. It is impossible not to be changed by this. The course has the potential to nurture the leader who lies inside every student. We are inspired by stories of courage and sacrifice. This course will show students the power of being an upstander rather than a bystander. It is hoped that the personal growth students will experience will then be translated into a heightened sense of civic responsibility.



WESTDALE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

COURSE PREREQUISITE: ENG2D

To choose the year long *Genocide and Literary Studies* course on your **option sheet** select the course code **CHG381G**. This will automatically register you for the companion course ENG3UG.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit Miss Dick in room 216 or email your questions to: kdick@hwdsb.on.ca

GENOCIDE & Literary Studies

gen·o·cide
/jənəˈsɪd/
noun

the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group of nation.
synonyms: mass murder, mass homicide, massacre

lit·er·a·ture
/ˈlɪdəərəˈtʃər, ˈlɪdəərəˈtʃoor/
noun

written works, especially those considered of superior or lasting artistic merit.
“a great work of literature”
synonyms: written works, writings, writing, creative writing, literary texts, compositions;
informal lit “English literature”

WESTDALE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Departements of History & English

Genocide of the Herero and Nama Peoples

Genocide Studies | CHG381

Students will investigate the terms *genocide*, *crimes against humanity*, and *war crimes* and explore them through the lens of historical analysis.

Students will examine identity formation and how “in groups” and “out groups” are created, including an analysis of how bias, stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination impact on various groups.

Students will use critical thinking skills to look at the themes of judgment, memory, and legacy and will evaluate the ways in which active citizens may empower themselves to stop future genocides.

English | ENG3U

This course emphasizes the development of literacy, communication, and critical and creative thinking skills necessary for success in academic and daily life.

Students will analyse challenging literary texts from various periods, countries, and cultures, as well as a range of informational and graphic texts, and create oral, written, and media texts in a variety of forms.

An important focus will be on using language with precision and clarity and incorporating stylistic devices appropriately and effectively

The Armenian Genocide

The Holodomor

Genocides of the Nazis

Cambodia

Rwanda

Bosnia

