The mission of the Genocide and Human Rights University Program (GHRUP) is to encourage a new generation of scholars to engage in research and publication in the field of Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

This is achieved through a comparative and interdisciplinary analysis of such cases of genocide as the Holocaust, the Cambodian Genocide, and the Rwandan Genocide among others, using the Armenian Genocide as a point of reference. The Armenian Genocide is recognized as the prototype of modern genocide in which the government endeavors to annihilate an ethnic or religious minority of its own citizens as an attempt to solve its political problems.

The program seeks to help develop an academic support system for those who work toward the prevention of genocide.

By studying the genocidal trauma of many different groups of peoples, the GHRUP strives to show that genocide is a shared human experience and as such, must be the concern of all individuals and institutions.

K.M. Greg Sarkissian
President
Comparative genocide studies can help us understand the conditions under which genocide and other mass atrocities are likely to take place. Once the characteristics of genocide are identified, it becomes predictable; once the crime of genocide becomes predictable, then there is a greater chance for genocide to become preventable.

The GHRUP is a unique course developed to fill a gap in the traditional university curriculum which exposes students to the conflicts and paradoxes of attempting to prevent genocide and save human lives without avoiding the complexities and moral dilemmas. My own view is that one of the single most effective means to end the slaughter of so many millions is for states to expand their concept of national interest to include the prevention of genocide and mass atrocity.

As both a teacher and the Program Director, my own experience has been a very encouraging one. When I started teaching comparative genocide over thirty years ago, the subject was new, published information was scarce, and the number of interested students small. Over the past decade with the GHRUP, I have met scores of highly motivated students who come with an interest in one particular case study or another, but leave with an appreciation of genocide as a shared human phenomenon and the immensity of its impact.

Perhaps one student summed up the GHRUP best when he said, “I came to your program as an advanced student of the Jewish Holocaust; I left it as a confirmed student of genocide.”

Roger W. Smith
Program Director
“The Genocide and Human Rights University Program is a learning model creating dialogues about history and reconciliation as well as forming a community and network of committed, informed citizens and scholars worldwide.”

The GHRUP serves as a valuable pedagogical model for teaching about genocide and human rights. Invited specialists use comparative frameworks and the curriculum is adjusted to reflect student interest and new scholarship within the field.

The pedagogical model of the program includes classroom dialogue and critique, along with a high level of respect for differences in background and opinion. For example, interactions between students of Turkish and Armenian background provide opportunities to explore issues of stereotypes, memory, denial, and reconciliation. The course also provides training for new generations in research, publications, teaching, and advocacy in fields relating to genocide and human rights.

Joyce Apsel
Course Director
The Genocide and Human Rights University Program is a remarkable initiative. I've been teaching in the program since 2007, and each year is a new and rewarding experience. The GHRUP brings together people from all over the world, with different areas of expertise, for two intense weeks of study about the most painful issues imaginable. Somehow the combination of academic rigor, an urgent subject, and lively sociability generates an amazing positive energy. I've learned so much from the other instructors and from the participants - you don't meet people like these anywhere else.

As a professor at the University of Toronto, I'm especially proud that the GHRUP takes place on our campus. It's an honour to host distinguished scholars like Joyce Apsel, Bill Schabas, Jim Waller, and others and to welcome the wonderful participants, many of whom are in Canada for the first time. Our university is enlivened by their presence. Over the years, I've recommended the program to many people, and every one of them has found it profoundly meaningful to be part of this dynamic group.

Doris Bergen
University of Toronto, Department of History
History of the Program

In the early 1990s, the Zoryan Institute had a vision of creating a unique course on comparative genocide studies after recognizing that these issues were not being adequately addressed in existing university programming. This vision was finally realized in 2001 after securing the human and financial resources needed based on the pedagogical concept and the course syllabus created by the Program Development Committee and Curriculum Advisory Committee.

In August 2002 the GHRUP was launched in Toronto and attracted students from Armenia, Australia, Canada, England, France, Japan and the United States. Some of the world’s foremost experts in genocide and human rights studies were invited to be instructors including Dr. Taner Akçam, Dr. Yair Auron, Dr. Frank Chalk, Dr. Vahakan Dadrian, Dr. Roger Smith, and Dr. Khachig Tölölyan.

The GHRUP continued to grow and gain awareness. Roger W. Smith, Professor Emeritus of Government at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and co-founder and a past president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, was named Program Director in 2003. In addition, faculty was expanded from six to twelve instructors to meet growing interest in the program and to maximize content.

In December 2003 the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (IIGHRS) was created as a division of the Zoryan Institute to engage in negotiations with various universities, which culminated in a partnership with the University of Minnesota. University students completing the program in either Minneapolis or Toronto now had the option of receiving graduate level course credits from the University of Minnesota.

To date over 400 students from 26 countries have completed the program. The extraordinary shared experiences of students, faculty, and staff have resulted in the benefit of establishing strong personal ties and friendships, and the development of networks which have extended well beyond the classroom. Perhaps the greatest benefit of launching the GHRUP has been its graduates who have gone out into the world to research, publish, teach and raise awareness about the nature of genocide, the importance of human rights, and the necessity of genocide prevention.
Course Description

This annual, two-week, graduate-level course is taught by leading experts in their fields and incorporates genocide theory, history, sociology, political science, anthropology, psychology and international law. The GHRUP provides participants with the intellectual framework to understand the numerous, complex, and often emotional issues related to genocide. An examination of several major case studies of genocide including the Armenian Genocide, the Jewish Holocaust, and the Rwandan Genocide among others, provides the foundation for comparative analysis while specific case studies and special themes vary from year to year.

Students come from all over the world to participate in this structured forum to explore universal questions relating to human rights and their gross violations such as:

- What is genocide, why does it occur and what are its causes?
- What is the relationship between genocide and human rights?
- Why does genocide denial occur?
- How can geo-politics affect human rights and lead to genocide?
- What is the genocidal experience of women and children?
- What is the role of international law and international bodies such as the United Nations?
- What is the social, economic and psychological impact on perpetrators, survivors and their descendants?
- Is the genocidal experience unique or universal?
- How can genocide be prevented?

“Every person around the world is connected through this horrible thing that is called “genocide”...this course really emphasized our humanity and how as humans we have to do anything that we can to prevent and to stop this.”

- Nomi Landau, PhD Candidate, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
GHRUP Course Topics

Over the years, GHRUP course topics and themes have varied providing new opportunities to learn about current and past events of genocide and gross violations of human rights within a structured framework for analysis:

The Armenian Genocide
The Cambodian Genocide
The Guatemalan Genocide
The Rwandan Genocide
The Holocaust
Darfur
The Former Yugoslavia
Genocide of Indigenous Peoples
Human Rights Abuses in Argentina
Development of Human Rights
Introduction and Theory of Genocide
Children, Gender and Genocide
International Law and Genocide
Genocide Denial
Preventing Genocide
Reconciling Perpetrators and Victim Groups
The Psychology of Genocide

*Awareness is fundamental to developing the political will crucial for enforcing and expanding the international justice system towards the prevention of future mass atrocity.*
GHRUP Faculty Members Over the Years

Rouben Adalian  
Director, Armenian National Institute, Washington, DC

Taner Akçam  
Professor of History, Clark University, Worcester, MA

Joyce Apsel  
Master Teacher of Humanities, New York University, New York, NY

Yair Auron  
Professor of Sociology, Political Science and Communication, Open University of Israel

Elazar Barkan  
Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York, NY

Brent Beardsley  
Former Personal Staff Officer to UN Force Commander Romeo Dallaire, United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda

Doris Bergen  
Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Gerald Caplan  
Journalist and Independent Scholar, Canada

Maja Catic  
Assistant Professor of Defense Studies, Canadian Forces College, Toronto, ON

Frank Chalk  
Professor of History Concordia University, Montreal, QC

Israel Charny  
Executive Director Institute on Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Jerusalem, Israel

Vahakn N. Dadrian  
Director of Genocide Research Zoryan Institute, New York State, USA

Craig Etcheson  
Visiting Scholar, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Stephen C. Feinstein  
Director, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Wendy Hamblet  
Professor of Liberal Studies, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, NC

Hoori Hamboyan  
Legal Policy Advisor, Federal Government of Canada

Maureen Hiebert  
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB

Alex Hinton  
Professor of Anthropology and Global Affairs, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ

Richard Hovannisian  
Professor Emeritus of Armenian and Near Eastern History, University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Elisa von Joedan-Forgey  
Assistant Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Stockton University, Galloway, NJ

Elisabeth King  
Associate Professor of International Education, New York University, New York, NY

Claudia Koonz  
Professor and Peabody Family Chair of History, Duke University, Durham, NC

Jacques Kornberg  
Professor Emeritus of the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Eric Markusen  
Professor of Sociology and Social Work, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN

Robert Melson  
Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Louis Najarian  
Clinical Professor, Hofstra North Shore - LIJ School of Medicine, Manhasset NY

Simon Payaslian  
Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Professor of Modern Armenian History and Literature, Boston University, Boston, MA

Chris Powell  
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON

Victoria Sanford  
Professor of Anthropology, Lehman College, City University of New York, New York, NY

William Schabas  
Professor of International Law, Middlesex University, London, UK

Lorne Shirinian  
Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature, Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, ON

Roger W. Smith  
Professor Emeritus of Government, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Gregory Stanton  
Research Professor of Genocide Studies and Prevention, George Mason University, Fairfax County, VA

Ervin Staub  
Professor Emeritus of Psychology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Pamela Steiner  
Fellow, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, Boston, MA

Scott Straus  
Professor of Political Science and International Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Khachig Tololyan  
Professor of English and Comparative Literature, College of Letters, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Samuel Totten  
Former Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education and Health, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR

Shake Toukmanian  
Professor of Emerita of Psychology, York University, Toronto, ON

Hannibal Travis  
Professor of Law, Florida International University, Miami, FL

James Waller  
Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College, Keene, NH

Ernesto Verdeja  
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
Organizing a course of this magnitude requires tremendous financial and human resources. Following every program, the GHRUP Planning Committee begins laying the foundation for the coming year’s syllabus: new subjects, specific case studies and special themes are researched based on the outcomes of the program, student commentary and current events. Revamping the course year-after-year, while exceptionally time consuming and costly, ensures that the course remains relevant with cutting edge analysis and instruction.

Aside from the program’s content, the next key element is obtaining the right faculty members who are selected from around the world based on their expertise, recent publications and leadership in their individual fields of study. IIGHRS arranges for their travel, accommodation, and other expenses. The faculty members are critical to the program’s success due to their unique experiences and scholarship.

The final element of the GHRUP are the students themselves. Students apply from all over the world – to date, over 400 students have completed the program with various cultural, ethnic and educational backgrounds. Applications are reviewed and candidates are carefully selected by the Admissions Committee based on their interest and commitment to human rights and prevention of genocide. IIGHRS also provides scholarships for certain applicants, based on needs, merits and their willingness to contribute to the field. These scholarships can include course fees, travel, visa arrangements and accommodations.

In summation, to realize a course of this caliber, one that is unparalleled and brings together international scholars, each leading experts in their various fields, requires months of planning, staff time and hundreds of hours of organization at a cost that well exceeds $100,000 on an annual basis.

We ask you to partner with us and support this unique program, both morally and financially. In doing so, you will help educate students from all over the world to learn about this heinous crime called genocide and the resulting universal trauma that must be stopped. Your help will empower the students to become agents of change in raising awareness about genocide and ways for its prevention. Finally, the efforts of these students returning to their homeland, will generate a ripple effect in their communities, to eventually transform the whole world into a place where genocide no longer exists.

“You cannot learn about genocide and leave it be; at least I feel as though this is something I must continue – a responsibility of some sort to use my knowledge.” — GHRUP Graduate

How you can help

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**GHRUP Supporters**

*Education and awareness are the best means for bringing about tolerance and understanding, and are needed in today’s world more than ever, in order to have justice and equity.*

- John Gilmour

As descendants of genocide survivors, we appreciate the Genocide and Human Rights University Program, which provide a unique and invaluable service by empowering a new generation of scholars to understand the causes of genocide, its devastating impact, and hopefully, to work towards its prevention.

- Atom Egoyan & Arsinée Khanjian

There are a thousand other things, but there are some things that we must do and we must do them now. Genocide can happen again, if not to us then to others. And so the work of the IIGHRS is extremely important.

- Carolann Najarian

I would like to have Turks, Kurds and Armenians be aware and have a common understanding of the Armenian Genocide...to feel they are working towards a common cause of promoting genocide prevention and universal human rights.

- Sara Chitjian

**Long Term Donors**

**Foundations**

- The Armenian Relief Society of Toronto
- The Levon Perouz Babayan Foundation
- The Vartkess and Rita Balian Family Foundation
- Endla and John Gilmour Foundation
- Joe Yalkezian Foundation
- National Association of Armenian Studies and Research
- TF Educational Foundation
- Byron Hill Corporation
- Knights of Vartan
- Daughters of Vartan - Artemis Chapter
- The Harry and Ovsanna Chitjian Family Foundation

**Individuals**

- Misak Abdulian
- Suzy Alexanian
- Diran Avedian
- Diana Hadjetian
- Andre and Seza Nazarian
- Tenny Nigoghossian
- Henry and Myrna Sarkissian
- Vazken and Lucie Terzian
What Our Students Say About Us

“I had expected another monument to the dead. They proved me completely and utterly wrong. The GHRUP was a forum for the living, a place for discussion and debate. In the midst of this forward-looking spirit of exchange between Armenians and non-Armenians, there is no way for anyone not to fit in.”

“We are fortunate to have an Institute such as Zoryan, dedicated to the purely academic, unbiased discussion and teaching of these topics. Thank you.”

“I truly appreciate the scholarship GHRUP gave me as it allowed me to have this experience that I will never forget. Not only has my knowledge base in the subject area of genocide increased, but the program has inspired me to further pursue this interest of mine in Human Rights and Genocide in my future academic career.”

“This course has enlightened my understanding of all genocides and has given me the knowledge to teach what I have learned.”

“I reminisce about the course ...it was a great experience for me in many ways. To see a group of students like myself unite for a certain cause (and from all over the world) is truly inspiring.”

“We are fortunate to have an Institute such as Zoryan, dedicated to the purely academic, unbiased discussion and teaching of these topics. Thank you.”

“I was impressed with the diversity of ideas amongst the students, and I believe that contributed wonderfully to the quality and effectiveness of the course.”

“I’ve never learned so much in such a short period of time, and, more importantly, been so motivated to action by what I’ve learned.”
The function of memory is not only to register past events, but to stimulate human conscience

- Raphael Lemkin
Author of the term genocide and pioneer of the UN Genocide Convention