

## POLS 740: Genealogies of Colonial and Postcolonial Killing

This graduate seminar will engage in a contrapuntal reading of violence against brown and black bodies in the production of modernity over the last two centuries. Some of the issues we will focus on include but are not limited to

- the use of colonial and postcolonial theaters to experiment with new methods of killing such as aerial bombing, germ warfare, smart bombs, nuclear weapons and drones
- the colonial origins of internment and concentration camps, panoptical surveillance, and other practices frequently circumscribed within western histories
- the carryover from counterinsurgency practices emerging in encounters with third world guerrillas into western city planning, police training and criminalization of minorities
- the role of western military and intelligence training agencies in third world state power
- the rising use of algorithms and big data in contemporary depersonalized killing fields

The purpose of the course will be to understand the coeval and conjoined emergence of modernity – especially in the realms of violence towards racial minorities, incarceration, surveillance, and biopolitics – in both first and third worlds. Some of the books we will reading (in their entirety or in part) include the following:

- Sven Lindqvist, A History of Bombing (New Press, 2003)  
Derek Gregory, The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine (Wiley-Blackwell, 2004)  
Tarak Barkawi, Globalization and War (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005)  
Gregoire Chamayou, A Theory of the Drone (New Press, 2015)  
Andrew Cockburn, Kill Chain: the rise of the high-tech assassins (Henry Holt, 2015)  
Eyal Weizman, Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation (Verso, 2007)  
Svetlana Alexievich, Zinky Boys: Soviet Voices from the Afghan War (Norton, 1992)  
Lesley Gill, The School of the Americas (Duke, 2004)  
Robert Gregory, Clean Bombs and Dirty Wars: Air power in Kosovo and Libya (Potomac, 2015)  
Mike Davis, Late Victorian Holocausts (Verso, 2002)  
Frederik Rosen, Collateral Damage: a candid history of a peculiar form of death (Hurst, 2016)  
Tung-hui Hu, A Prehistory of Cloud (MIT, 2015)  
Paul Ham, Hiroshima Nagasaki: the real story of the atomic bombings and aftermath (2014)  
Roberto Gonzalez, Militarizing Culture – essays on the warfare state (Leftcoast, 2010)  
William Arkin, Unmanned – Drones, Data and the Illusion of Perfect Warfare (Little Brown, 2015)  
Orit Halpern, Beautiful Data – a history of vision and reason since 1945 (Duke, 2015)