

3 December 2020

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Paul Loikith, Chair, Graduate Council

RE: Graduate Certificate in Holocaust and Genocide/Atrocity Prevention

The following proposal has been approved by the Graduate Council and is recommended for approval by the Faculty Senate.

You may read the full text of the program proposal, as well as Faculty Budget Committee comments, online at the [Online Curriculum Management System \(OCMS\) Dashboard](#).

**PROPOSAL SUMMARY FOR
College of Liberal Arts and Science**

Graduate Certificate in Holocaust and Genocide/Atrocity Prevention

Certificate Type

Graduate Certificate: Admission to graduate status required

Effective Term

Fall 2021

Overview of the Program

The graduate certificate in Holocaust and Genocide/Atrocity Prevention (H-GAP) will teach students about historic and current genocides and atrocities, and build foundational knowledge of best practices for identifying threats of atrocities and for implementing strategies to prevent future atrocities. Building upon historic examples of the Holocaust and other atrocities that have shaped the language and scope of the field, students will explore emerging scholarship about how identity issues, climate change, political trends and migration patterns impact the risks of genocide and mass atrocities; and about how to maximize the role of civil society actors, local governments, and international bodies in effective prevention efforts.

Situated within the discipline of Conflict Resolution, and in partnership with the School of Gender, Race and Nations, this certificate represents multiple interdisciplinary perspectives, working together to prepare educators, activists, policy makers and change agents in genocide and atrocity prevention. The field of Conflict Resolution offers theories and practices that support constructive engagement, strategic communication, and empowered collaboration — all essential tools for effective prevention.

Evidence of Need

The need for this program was established through conversations with the National Higher Education Leadership Consortium of Directors of Centers in Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies, which recognized Portland State University as the only such center in the State of Oregon (see attached map). As such, the H-GAP Certificate is one of the few academic programs on the west coast of the United States, and would be the only graduate level certification in the Pacific Northwest. This is especially important in the wake of the State of Oregon mandating Holocaust and genocide education in all middle and high school classrooms starting in the Fall of 2020 (<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/453224-oregon-to-require-schools-to-teach->

about-holocaust), and the longer-standing Oregon mandates for both Native American Studies and Ethnic Studies.

Course of Study

Minimum Credits: 20

Required Courses (12 credits)

CR 549 Introduction to Holocaust and Genocide Studies, 4 credits

GRN 515 Constructions of Power and Knowledge: Gender, Race and Nation, 4 credits

CR 550 Holocaust and Genocide/Atrocity Prevention: Synthesis, 4 credits

Electives (8 credits)

A student will take a minimum of 8 credits offered below. All courses must be taken at the graduate (500- or above-) level. Courses taken under the undifferentiated grading option (pass/no pass) are not acceptable toward fulfilling certificate requirements.

Approved Elective Courses:

GRN 520 Critical Methodologies, 4 credits

Hst 510/JSt 510: The Holocaust, 4 credits

CR 527: Nationalism & Ethnic Conflict, 4 credits

BSt 514: Racism, 4 credits

BSt 550: Top: Race and Sustainability, 4 credits

GRN 530: Social Justice Pedagogy, 4 credits

GRN 550: Seminar in Gender, Race, and Nations, 4 credits

WS 571: Global Feminisms, 4 credits

PS 510: Genocide: Trauma, Law, and Politics. 4 credits