Master of Arts in Holocaust & Genocide Studies
The M.A. in Holocaust & Genocide Studies is an interdisciplinary program.

About the Program

The Masters of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide studies at Kean University, one of only three such programs in the United States, is exceptionally poised to inspire leaders in education, human rights, public policy, and other growing global professional fields for the 21st century. It takes advantage of the university’s proximity to New York City – home of human rights organizations, NGOs, the United Nations, and world-class museums, archives, libraries, and other documentary repositories.

Situated at one of the nation’s most diverse universities in the culturally rich region of central New Jersey and metropolitan New York City, its main concern is to understand the world’s peoples and nations who endured extreme assault and now seek recognition as international players. Memories of genocide often constitute their central narratives. Kean’s Masters of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies offers ample opportunities to grasp and influence this historical dynamic.

To meet these demands the program offers 19 interdisciplinary courses, develops skills for independent research and pedagogical innovation, and prepares graduates for teaching, including the university’s course The Holocaust, Genocide, and Modern Humanity.

Original watercolor artwork, commissioned for this brochure, by W. Carl Burger.
The Setting

The program benefits substantially from Kean University’s commitment to an education for the 21st century in tandem with a renewed public commitment to developing new strategies for interpreting and addressing the worldwide commission of crimes against humanity. It derives inspiration from the university’s many resources and centers:

**Human Rights Institute** and its noteworthy conferences, speaker series, and exhibits, including international conferences on “Darfur: The First Genocide of the 21st Century” and “Slavery in the 21st Century”

**Premiere Stages Human Rights Initiative**, an annual series of dramatic productions exploring genocide and other human rights violations

**The Holocaust Resource Center**, a teacher-training institute, repository of documentary sources, and, for 30 years, a consummate program for visually recording witness accounts in affiliation with the United States Memorial Museum, in Washington, DC, and The Hebrew University, in Jerusalem

Who Should Apply

The program typically draws on students from diverse undergraduate fields, and graduates socially engaged and notably committed students. A sense of purpose characterizes these individuals and invigorates the program’s graduate experience. We seek out, welcome, and prepare students for active study, networking, and rewarding professional careers.
Pedagogical and Professional Goals

Recognizing that “global competence” is a key credential for career advancement, the program places emphasis on the dynamics of world affairs, communication with citizens in and from other societies, and resilience in adapting to rapidly changing world circumstances. Our students direct human rights institutes and Holocaust resource centers, teach at universities, and build curricula and create model courses for schools at local and state levels. They curate museum exhibits, take leading government positions, develop educational programs abroad, pursue commercial ventures, and study in Ph.D. and other advance degree programs.

Degree candidates are poised for professional careers as interpreters of genocide and its global repercussions. They present papers at national and international conferences and intern at human rights organizations in New York City and throughout the country, including the International Rescue Committee, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Auschwitz Jewish Center, and the Jewish Heritage Museum. Degree candidates elect to join the program’s unique summer study delegations to international sites of former genocide and participate in the program’s Graduate Network.

Our Students

JOHN LESTRANGE, MAHGS’16
Career Interest: Higher education, museum genocide remembrance
“The world is, unfortunately, full of examples of one group seeking to destroy another and too many of them are largely unknown to the public. I would like to change that. I have found a new passion in educating people about this field and the devastating impact it has on the world.”
MARK AMPOFO, MAHGS’16
Future Plans: Ph.D. candidacy

“I have come to believe that a large and powerful activist movement will sound an alarm, shine a spotlight on those who cause or enable genocide or mass atrocities, and demand action by our elected leaders and anyone who has the power to protect those who face the threat of genocide or mass atrocity, anywhere in the world.”

DR. JOANNA SLIWA, MAHGS’08
Current Employment: Archives Project Specialist at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

“I am a better scholar and educator thanks to the invaluable and dedicated mentorship I received from Kean faculty. My studies in the program also have opened new windows of opportunity for me in the U.S. and abroad, and inspired me to pursue scholarly and professional endeavors related to the study of the Holocaust, genocide, and Jewish studies.”

TONYA HALL, MAHGS’15
Current Employment: Maimonides Institute for Medicine, Ethics and the Holocaust; Blogger

“The MAHGS Program has provided me with a depth of knowledge and analytical skills that stretch far beyond the classroom and has introduced me to truly inspiring people. By combining my curious nature, my love of research, and my mission to aid in genocide prevention, I am no longer someone who talks about making a difference. I am someone who is making a difference.”

RYAN MURRAY MAHGS’15
Career: Teacher

“If there is one overall theme that the MA program has instilled in me it is that the Holocaust offers profound insights into the history of humanity. As a public school teacher, I am teaching citizens, voters, and community members. My students utilize the education they receive to make the world around them a better place. I am very proud of the work I completed as a member of the MA program at Kean.”
Course of Study

The Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies program regards the Holocaust as the paradigmatic genocide – the event that produced the grammar of genocide studies. The program, therefore, requires courses dedicated to understanding the Holocaust era. Its other courses cast a wider net, making it possible to study genocide in comparative perspective.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Courses in the Holocaust — 15 credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MAHG 5000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>History of the Holocaust: Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAHG 5001</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>History of the Holocaust: Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHG 5002</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Survival Strategies in Modern Jewish History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHG 5003</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>History of Anti-Semitism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHG 5004</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Holocaust: Representations in Literature and Film</td>
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| Required Courses in Genocide — 6 Credits (Choose 2 courses) | | |
| MAHG 5011 | 3 | Genocide on the African Continent: Colonial |
| MAHG 5012 | 3 | Native-American Genocide |
| MAHG 5013 | 3 | Genocide in Latin America |
| MAHG 5014 | 3 | The Armenian Genocide |
| MAHG 5015 | 3 | Genocide in Asian History |
| MAHG 5016 | 3 | The Ukrainian Famine as a Question of Genocide, 1932-1933 |

| Required Course in the Holocaust and Genocide — 3 credits | | |
| MAHG 5018 | 3 | Comparative Genocide: Towards a Synthesis |

| Elective Courses in the Holocaust and Genocide — 6 Credits (choose 2 courses) | | |
| MAHG 5019 | 3 | Philosophical, Theological, and Legal Aspects of the Holocaust and Genocide |
| MAHG 5020 | 3 | The Churches and the Holocaust |
| MAHG 5025 | 3 | Travel Learn: Genocide in Multinational Context |
| MAHG 5026 | 3 | Field Work and Internship Seminar |
| MAHG 5030 | 3 | Transitional Justice |
| EMSE 5342 | 3** | Teaching the Holocaust |
| EMSE 5343 | 3** | Teaching Prejudice Reduction |
| MAHG 5900 | 3 | Special Topics |

| Thesis/Research Projects — 6 Credits* | | |
| ID 5800 | 3 | Reading/Research Tutorial |
| ID 5801 | 3*** | Thesis Research/Writing |

All courses are 3 credits - Total 36 Credits

*Recommended in sequence

**Free courses credited toward the degree. Degree candidates may elect to embellish their graduate work with a Certificate in Teaching the Holocaust and Prejudice Reduction (conferred by the Holocaust Resource Center) by enrolling in two advanced research seminars (EMSE 5348 and EMSE 5349) in addition to EMSE 5342 and EMSE 5343.

***ID 5801 may involve a project other than a thesis, such as a curriculum design or an advocacy undertaking. It must include a substantial research component and receive prior approval from the project adviser and the program director.
Seminars

Travel Seminar To magnify the study of genocide, the program periodically convenes a travel seminar to sites where genocide occurred. Led by the program’s graduate faculty, the seminar introduces degree candidates and others to the land-and memoryscapes and to witnesses, educators, scholars, political leaders, and local human rights advocates. Seminars in recent years included visits to Warsaw, Jedwabne, Berlin, Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Phnom Penh, and Saigon.

Master Seminar for International Scholars Every two years, the program solicits abstracts of scholars’ research in progress for its master seminar. Recent themes include:

Comparative Genocide, with facilitator Kirsten Dyck, Cummings Foundation Fellow, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Societies Emerging from Conflict: The Aftermath of Atrocity, with facilitator Nadine Blumer, Centre for Ethnographic Research and Exhibition in the Aftermath of Violence Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

Faculty Seminar The program cosponsors the Faculty Seminar in Comparative Cultures, a themes, many dealing with genocide.

The Research Environment

Degree candidates create and develop their research programs in collaboration with graduate faculty.

RECENT THESIS TOPICS INCLUDE:
Jamie Boszko, The Holodomor as Genocide Through the Analysis of Other World Famines
Adviser: Dr. Ruth Griffith

Susan Elfenbein, Forgotten Genocide: The 1937 Haitian Massacre in the Dominican Republic.
Adviser: Dr. Frank Argote-Freyre

Adviser: Dr. Gilbert Kahn

Mark Keelan, The Sterilization of Native American Women: Post World War II.
Adviser: Dr. Frank Esposito

Adviser: Dr. Sue Gronewold
Jaci Mayer, *Teaching Holocaust and Genocide through Literature and Film: A Curriculum for High School Social Studies.* Adviser: Dr. Carole Shaffer-Koros

Kate Marguerite Romano, *The Stab-in-the-Back Theory: From Myth to Genocide.* Adviser: Dr. Dennis Klein


Rebecca Scott, *Love Thy Neighbors As Thyself?: On the Possibilities of Forgiveness in Jedwabne, Poland.* Adviser: Dr. Dennis Klein

**Conference Papers**

In recent years, masters degree candidates have presented papers at national conferences, including conferences in Holocaust and Genocide studies at Millersville University.

**PAPERS INCLUDE:**

Marguerite Romano, *Propaganda as an Instrument for Manipulating Memory of the German destiny or World War I*

Jamie Boszko, *W.G. Sebald on What Germans Could Not or Would Not Remember*

Rebecca Scott, *Correcting Memories By Exploring the Phenomenon of Intimate Killing*

Evan Alberhasky, *An Appeal to the Emotions: The Use of Propaganda as a Tool to the Masses*

Jeremy Chaudruc, *The Politics of Fear*

Walter McGee, *Dictatorship and Democracy: Considering Propaganda in Context*


Rachel Wagner, *Without International Oversight: Implications of International Pullout for Criminal Justice in the Court System of Bosnia-Herzegovina*

John Lestrange, *Forgiveness and Amnesty in Transitional Justice: Understanding South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission*
The Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies program invites or supports visiting scholars for national conferences, lectures, and symposia to engage students and faculty, as well as the general public, in discussions about the origins, interpretations, and memory of genocide. Recent programs include:

Daniel Mendelsohn, author of *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million*

*Just War Theory and Practice*, a lecture by Michael Walzer, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

*Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*, a lecture by Timothy Snyder, Yale University

*Raphael Lemkin: On the Occasion of the Publication of His Autobiography*, a mini-conference, featuring Donna-Lee Frieze, editor of Raphael Lemkin’s autobiography; Peter Balakian, Pulitzer Prize-winning Armenian Genocide scholar; Robert Jay Lifton, Lecturer in Psychiatry at Columbia University; Annette Becker, Professor of Contemporary History at Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense; and Nancy Steinson, Lemkin’s late-life close friend from the 1950s

*The NJ Mandate: 20 Years of Instruction about the Holocaust and Genocide* with Governor Thomas H. Kean; Holocaust and genocide educator Marcia Sachs Littell; Ryan Murray, Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies degree candidate; and Paul Winkler, Executive Director of the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education

*Asylum: Genocide Victims in the United States*, with Hisham Osman, Secretary General of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project; Cambodian-American photojournalist Pete Pin; Joyce Reilly of the Darfur Resettlement Project; and Elissa Steglich, managing attorney of the American Friends Service Committee

*The Centenary of the Armenian Genocide: What Have We Learned?*, a lecture by Richard Hovannisian, UCLA

*Social Entrepreneurship in the Age of Atrocities*, a workshop by Zachary Kaufman, an attorney holding concurrent academic appointments at Yale University Law School and Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government

*After the Deluge*, a conversation with Ian Buruma, *New York Review of Books* contributor
Visiting Scholars

Omer Bartov**
Ian Buruma*
Yehuda Bauer**
Christopher Browning**
Hasia Diner*
Deborah Dwork**
Yaffa Eliach**
Martin Gilbert**
Daniel Goldhagen**
Raul Hilberg**
Richard Hovannisian*
Jan Karski**

Ian Kershaw**
Tony Kushner*
Deborah Lipstadt*
Franklin Littell**
Daniel Mendelsohn*
Timothy Snyder*
Sister Rose Thering**
Michael Walzer*
Elie Wiesel**
David Wyman**

In collaboration with
* Jewish Studies Program
** Holocaust Resource Center
*** Human Rights Institute

Photojournalist Ryan Spencer

Daniel Mendelsohn (left) with degree candidate Paul Friedman

Michael Walzer

Timothy Snyder
Interested in Joining Us?

We welcome your visit anytime. Contact us for an appointment, for opportunities to visit classes, and for ascertaining dates of Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies open houses and sponsored events.

How to Apply

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
- Nathan Weiss Graduate College application (apply.kean.edu)
- Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (lower GPAs will be considered based on strength of overall application)
- Official transcripts from all institutions attended
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty advisers (preferred) or professional associates
- Personal statement (stipulate professional goals and how an MA degree in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Kean University will help you meet them)
- Academic CV or professional résumé
- Interview may be required
- TOEFL (for applicants whose native language is no English (code 2517)
- The GRE and MAT examination scores are not required (Code 2517)

Tuition

Tuition rates at Kean University, a state university, are notably affordable. Please check the website for current rates, grad.kean.edu/tuition-and-fees.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available: The Hannah Senesh Humanitarian Fellowship for applicants; and Graduate Assistantships, Foundation scholarships (kean.edu/ku/scholarships), and travel seminar subsidies for matriculated degree candidates.

Questions? Contact

Dr. Dennis Klein, Program Director
dklein@kean.edu
908.737.0256
**Faculty**

Frank Argote-Freyre, Ph.D. Professor of History; Latin America / fargotef@kean.edu

Frank Esposito, Ph.D. Professor of History; Native American / fesposit@kean.edu

Sue Gronewold, Ph.D. Professor of History; World History, Asia / sgronewo@kean.edu

Ruth Griffith, Ph.D. Professor of English; Ukraine and East Europe / rgriffit@kean.edu

Gilbert Kahn, Ph.D. Professor of Political Science; Middle East, Antisemitism / gkahn@kean.edu

Dennis Klein, Ph.D. Professor of History; Jewish Studies, Holocaust / dklein@kean.edu

Janice Kroposky, MA. Acting Director, Holocaust Resource Center; Teacher Education / jkroposk@kean.edu

Gary Kulhanjian, Ed.S. History; Middle East, Turkey-Armenia / kulhanj@kean.edu

Sidney Langer, Ph.D. Professor of Sociology; Extreme Situations / slanger@kean.edu

C. Brid Nicholson, Ph.D. Professor of History; Irish famine / cnichols@kean.edu

Abigail Perkiss, Ph.D., J.D. Professor of History; African and African-American / aperkiss@kean.edu

Brian Regal, Ph.D. Professor of History; History of Science / bregal@kean.edu

Davida Schuman, Ph.D. Professor of Special Education; Education Strategies/ dschuman@kean.edu

Carole Shaffer-Koros, Ph.D. Professor Emerita of English; Literature and Film / ckoros@kean.edu

Robert Sitelman, Ph.D. Professor of Philosophy; Theology and Law / rsitelma@kean.edu

Melody Toby, Ph.D. Professor of Sociology; Religion / mtoby@kean.edu

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**Program Director**

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