GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH OPTION BOOK/FILM ESSAY

§1. **What books are suitable?** The most appropriate are **academic/scholarly works** of history (these have foot- or endnotes), but not anthologies or fiction, although there are exceptions. Many **memoirs**, **diaries** and **biographies** are fine as well. Some **feature films** or **documentaries** are also acceptable.

§2. **Research: Obtaining background materials.**
   a. For books published since the 1980s, reviews in scholarly journals can be found in the UCSB library's > databases, especially: *Academic Search Complete*, *JStor* and *Project Muse*. Try searching all three with the author's name and title keywords. Download the pdfs and copy-paste the citations (Chicago style).
   b. The **books.google.com** page for a book has a "Similar books" tab. **Google scholar** lists reviews and has "Cited by" and "Related articles" links (note: go only one level deep on those).
      Reviews not available in full text may be available in the UCSB library databases --search there.
   c. If you need help finding reviews, ask at the library reference desk, or see the professor.
   d. The references in a relevant Wikipedia article may also contain additional reviews or discussions.
   e. You should have at least 2-4 reviews of your book or film, at least one of which should be from a scholarly journal. If a review is in a foreign language, try using an online translation engine.
   f. For each review you should record full bibliographic information: reviewer's name, journal title, date, page numbers. If from, or available on, the web, also the URL. But a URL alone is never enough.

§3. **What should my book essay look like?**
   The body text of paper (not including the citations) should be **about 1200 words** (3 pages single-spaced). Examples of *more comprehensive* student book essays from the professor's previous courses can be found here and here. (Yours will be shorter than these.) Book essays have five main elements:
   A. A *descriptive title* that indicates the main theme you are writing about.
   B. A *full bibliographic citation* of the book or film itself, including the author, publisher name and date, and number of pages/minutes. Also include the library call number or other information about its availability (e.g. streaming service).
   C. A *summary description* of your book or film: What is it about? What sources does it use? What question(s) does it want to answer? How is it organized? What argument does it make or message does it convey?
   D. Your *main body text* should discuss various aspects of the book and its reviews. What did the reviews find to be important? What do you think is relevant? How does it relate to themes of this course? What does it contribute to our knowledge of or understandings about genocide in general? The best papers will also note where the book comes up short: what did the author ignore, or what flaws are there in their argument? (The reviews should help here.)
   E. Finally, *full citations of reviews* of the book or film (as in §2.f. above), with short *descriptive annotations* about how that reviewer assessed the book or film, what points they make.

§4. **Due date: Tue or Thu, Mar. 11 or 13, 11:59pm.** I will try to grade these by Monday 3/17, so that if you feel you can get a better grade by doing the final exam by Tuesday afternoon, you can still do that.

§5. **Wikipedia and AI.** Both of these can be good aids in research and writing. For many topics, Wikipedia can be a good starting place for background and citations of secondary literature. AI, used effectively, can help you to improve your writing. However, do not ask it to make your text sound "more academic"--that just generates fluff. And AI always needs fact-checking. You should footnote all uses of AI with the name of the AI used and the prompts you entered.

§6. **Academic integrity and plagiarism**—presenting someone else's work as your own, or deliberately failing to credit or attribute--footnote--the work of others on whom you draw (including materials found on the web or generated by AI, as well as your own work submitted for another course)—is a serious academic offense, punishable by dismissal from the university. It hurts the one who commits it most of all, by cheating them out of an education. After discussion I may fail transgressors for the assignment or the course, and I report offenses to the UCSB Office of Student Conduct for investigation action.