



REL 598/494 – Critical Theory: Memory, Mourning, Memorialization
FALL 2011 (ASU, Tempe campus, Mo, 2:00-4:50 PM)
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The course is offered in conjunction with the ASU research symposium on Memory & CounterMemory (Nov. 6-8, 2011). Suitable for graduate students and qualified undergraduates in interdisciplinary areas of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Literature, History, Jewish Studies, Peace Studies, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Rhetoric, and Social Transformation). The course will integrate lectures, seminar discussions, and student workshops related to the final seminar papers. *Students registered for the course should consult the blackboard one month prior to the start of the term for the syllabus and the first class assignment.*

Haunting Memory

How do physical and emotional harms impact memory? How does coming to terms with the past shape narratives and strategies of memorialization, monuments, and museums? What is the relationship between memorializing of the past on behalf of victims and narrating the past for the sake of the present?

Memory and the Historical Past

Given the fact that memory is usually inseparable from internal conflict, how can people in the present resolve their internal conflict about the past? What are the psychological resources available to dealing with trauma? How can we remember without homogenizing histories and idolizing seamless heritages?

Memory and the Future

How does memory shape the future of an individual or a group?

Which or whose memory makes our future possible, open, and hopeful? Can trans-generational memory transform uninhabitable places and difficult times that were weighted down by haunting legacies and conflicted heritages? Can succeeding generations remember human possibility without redemptive consolations of victory marches, monuments, museums, and other conventional ways of generating “cheap grace?”

Contexts

- *The academic context:* developments and newly emerging fields of shared questions in Holocaust Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Genocide Studies, East European Studies, Memory Studies, and Trauma Studies.
- *The public context:* memory after war, representations of memory, contested sites of museums, memorials, monuments, memoirs, and public discourses.
- *The cultural context:* the memory of the victims, readings of the past that shape our present and future, liberating narratives and movements in art, architecture, literature, performance, and theory.



Required Texts

Shoshana Felman & Dori Laub. *Testimony: Crisis of Witnessing in Literature, Psychoanalysis, and History* (1992).
Sigmund Freud. *On Murder, Mourning and Melancholia* (2005).
Saul Friedlander. Ed. *Probing the Limits of Representation: Nazism and the "Final Solution"* (1992).
Milan Kundera, *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting* (New York: Penguin Books (1981).
Daniel Levy & Natan Sznaider, *The Holocaust and Memory in the Global Age* (2005).
Paul Ricoeur. *Memory, History, Forgetting* (2006).
Michael Rothberg. *Multidirectional Memory: Remembering the Holocaust in the Age of Decolonization* (2009).
James Young. *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning* (1994).

Other Sources

Cathy Caruth. *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative and History* (1996). & Caruth. ed. *Trauma: Explorations in Memory* (1995).
Haydée Faimberg. *The Telescoping of Generations: Listening to the Narcissistic Links Between Generations* (2005).
Marianne Hirsch. *Family Frames: Photography, Narrative, and Post-Memory*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997.
Marianne Hirsch and Leo Spitzer. *Ghosts of Home: The Afterlife of Czernowitz in Jewish Memory* (2010).
Dominick LaCapra. *Writing History, Writing Trauma* (2000) & LaCapra. *History in Transit: Experience, Identity, Critical Theory* (2004).
Berel Lang. “Primo Levi, Writer (and Memoirist).” The 2010 Philip Hallie lecture at Wesleyan University.
Alexander and Margarete Mitscherlich, *The Inability to Mourn: Principles of Collective Behavior* (1975).
Pierre Nora, *Realms of Memory*. (1996).
Jeffrey Olick. *The Politics of Regret: On Collective Memory and Historical Responsibility* (2007).
Michael Rossington and Anne Whitehead. *Theories of Memory: A Reader* (2007).
Gabriele Schwab. *Haunting Legacies: Violent Histories and Transgenerational Trauma* (2010).
Paul Williams. *Memorial Museums: The Global Rush to Commemorate Atrocities* (2008).
James Young. *At Memory's Edge: After-images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture* (2000).