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 as 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


Other Sources