

**The Culture of Memory:
History, Trauma, and National Identity**

In this course, we explore the cultural construction of memory--personal, religious, national, social, and literary--from ancient to modern and post-modern times. Here we ask to what extent memory is transmitted through individual selves and to what extent it is socially and culturally produced, where the self and culture overlap. Looking specifically at the ways historical trauma is remembered, we ask who controls the past, to what ends, and how the very notion of collective memory can be politically shaped. Among the "memory-sites" under examination here will be personal and official history, oral testimonies, diaries and memoirs, monuments, museums and days of remembrance, and post-modern forms of "counter-memory" found in contemporary photography and conceptual art.

Required Readings:

Zakhor, by Yosef Haim Yerushalmi.
The Use and Abuse of History, by Friedrich Nietzsche.
On Collective Memory, by Maurice Halbwachs.
On Photography, by Susan Sontag
At Memory's Edge, by James E. Young
The Texture of Memory, by James E. Young.
"Screen Memories," "Mourning and Melancholia," "The Uncanny," by Sigmund Freud.

And selections from:

Trauma: Explorations in Memory, ed. by Cathy Caruth; Testimony, by Shoshana Felman and Dori Laub; History as an Art of Memory, by Patrick Hutton; Twilight Memories, by Andreas Huyssen; Les Lieux de Memoire, by Pierre Nora; Memory, History, and the Extermination of the Jews of Europe, by Saul Friedlander; The Art of Memory, by Frances Yates; The Past is a Foreign Country, by David Lowenthal; Perceptions of Jewish History, by Amos Funkenstein; The Architectural Uncanny, by Anthony Vidler; Nine Points on Monumentality, by S. Giedion; Up from Zero, by Paul Goldberger; and "Idea of the Monument," by Maya Lin; Women in the Holocaust, ed. by Dalia Ofer and Lenore Weitzman.

Written work for this course includes either two (10-12 page) papers or one (20-25 page) final essay, due 27 March and 8 May, respectively. Each student will also be responsible for leading the discussion of one session's readings.

January 30

I. Introduction: The Culture of Memory.

Readings: Selections from Yates.

February 6

II. The Jewish God of History: Biblical Narrative, History, and Memory.

Readings: Yerushalmi.

February 13

III. Between History and Memory I: The Uses and Abuses of the Past.

Readings: Selections from Nietzsche and Funkenstein.

February 20

IV. Between History and Memory II: Les Lieux de Memoire.

Readings: Selections from Nora, Hutton, and Lowenthal.

February 27

V. The Social Construction of Memory: Collective and Collected.

Readings: Halbwachs.

March 6

VI. The Memory of Personal Trauma.

Readings: Freud; selections from Caruth.

March 13

VII. The Memory of Historical Trauma: Narrative and the Eye-witness.

Readings: Selections from Friedlander; Young.

March 20 (Spring Recess)

March 27

VIII. Photographic Memory.

Readings: Sontag; Barthes; selections from Hirsch.

April 3 (Passover)

IX. Film, Video, and Testimony.

Readings: Laub and Felman; Young; video presentations.

April 10

X. Gender and Memory.

Readings: Ofer; Ringelheim; Horowitz.

April 17 (Monday Class Schedule)

April 24

XI. National Landscapes of Memory I: Monuments, Counter-monuments, Memorials.

Readings: Young; Lin; Gideion; slide and video presentations.

May 1

XII. National Landscapes of Memory II: Museums and Artifacts in Washington and Auschwitz.

Readings: Young; Linenthal; Vidler; Harris; Michio.

May 8

XIII. The Architecture and Politics of Memory: Libeskind and Eisenman in Berlin.

Readings: Vidler; Young; Huyssen; slide presentation.

May 15

XIV. The Stages of Memory at Ground Zero: The WTC Site Memorial Process.

Readings: Young and Goldberger.

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:30 - 1:00, and by appointment, Herter Hall 739.