

How Societies Remember

First-Year Seminar

Fall 2022

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Office: Tarbuton Hall 211

Office Hours: 4-5PM Monday & by virtual appointment

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course.

Course Description

This course aims to gain a deeper and broader understanding of “collective memory” or “social memory,” an interdisciplinary field which addresses how societies perceive their past. It introduces students to many topics related to this theme, but the topics are categorized into two main themes: 1) war memory; 2) forgetting, silence, and denial. Readings, documentaries, and various cultural objects, such as literature, movies, fine arts, and music, are utilized to facilitate lectures and discussions.

This course will be conducted as a seminar. Instead of the instructor lecturing all the time, learning will take place through a combination of lecturing and discussion. Enthusiastic engagement on the part of every student is vital to the success of this course.

Requirements

The required assignments will include the following items.

1. Attendance (10%)

Attendance is required. The instructor/TA will take attendance in the beginning/end of each class. Students who participate in University-sanctioned events, or have illness, or have emergency must inform the instructor in advance with appropriate verification documents. Total points for attendance are 10. They also must make up any work they missed. Students who miss

one class without reasons will only get 7.5; two (2) classes 5 for attendance credit. Students who miss three (3) classes will not get any attendance credit.

2. Questions about Reading (20%)

For most sessions, students are required to ask one or two questions for discussions along with a brief explanation about what you want to know with the question or what drives you to ask the question. You can draw on your personal experience or the materials you've read. The questions will be submitted on Canvas the day before the class. Each question is worth 1%.

3. Analytical Essays (40%):

Students need to write four (4) analysis essays to discuss a topic in a new material (either a movie or a reading) in light of the readings in class. Questions and discussion points as well as expectations will be given. After submitting the essay, the class will discuss the new reading or documentary. Each essay is worth 10 points. Instructions will be given.

4. Final Paper (30%)

In the final paper, students need to address some broader issues common to different parts of the course. A few potential topics with questions will be given to students before the exam, and the final topic will be announced two days before the due date.

Readings

Three types of readings will be used for this course. All of them are available either through Emory Library or provided in the form of scanned copies. No need to purchase books.

Journal articles MUST BE downloaded from the library's website. I'll explain why I do not upload PDFs of journal articles to Canvas.

E-book: Many of the readings are in the format of e-book, which can be accessed (for download or online reading) through Emory Library.

Scanned Readings: Some readings are not available in electronic formats and will be scanned uploaded to Canvas.

RULES AND POLICIES

Communication

- **Read this syllabus carefully before asking questions.**
- I will also send periodic Canvas announcements and/or emails about any further course information. Please read all the written course communications thoroughly!
- If you have questions after you have read everything in a particular course document (syllabus, paper instructions, study guide), then feel free to ask me.

- Do NOT ask/email me questions that I have already answered in this syllabus or via posted announcement/emails. I will not respond to these questions.
- I generally respond to emails within 24 hours.

Conduct

Please be mindful of the general code of conduct that you would use in any classroom setting. I expect us all to be respectful of one another.

- Please do not arrive late to class. If you have to run from a place far from the classroom building and are likely to be late, please let the instructor know beforehand.
- Once in class, please refrain from carrying on private conversations with your neighbor(s). This is distracting for everyone else in the room.
- Laptops are allowed for note-taking and occasional information-checking. Please refrain from checking Facebook or any other non-class activities during all class meetings.
- The use of cell phones is NOT permitted in this class.

Missed Classes

You are responsible for missed material. Please get notes from your classmates. After you have read all of the missed material, if you still have questions, please come to my office hours.

Video/Audio

You may not video or audiotape lectures without my express consent.

Make-Up Policy

Makeup exams/assignments will *only* be allowed in a situation of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency, university activities).

Academic Integrity

Students who are admitted to Emory College of Arts and Sciences agree to abide by the provisions of the Honor Code: <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>

Access and Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and have anticipated barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, or presume having a disability (e.g. mental health, attention, learning, vision, hearing, physical or systemic), and are in need of accommodations for this semester, we encourage you to contact the Office of Access, Disability Services, and Resources (ADSR) to learn more about the registration process and steps for requesting accommodations. If you are a student that is currently registered with ADSR and have not received a copy of your accommodation notification letter within the first week of class, please notify ADSR **immediately**.

Students who have accommodations in place are encouraged to coordinate sometime with your professor, during **the first two weeks** of the semester, to communicate your specific needs for the course as it relates to your approved accommodations. All discussions with ADSR and faculty concerning the nature of your disability remain confidential. For additional information regarding ADSR, please visit the website: equity.emory.edu/access.

Reading and Class Schedule

Reading and Class Schedule

Note: “Q” means the session students are expected to raise questions before the session.

#	Date	Topic	Reading	Activities
1	Aug 24	Introduction: How Societies Remember?	No	
2	Aug 29	War Memory I	(E-book) Marita Sturken: <i>Tangled Memories</i> . Chapter Two	Film Screening & discussion: <i>Maya Lin: Clear and Strong Vision</i>
3	Aug 31	War Memory II	(Article) Wagner-Pacifici, Robin, and Barry Schwartz. 1991. "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Commemorating a Difficult Past." <i>American journal of sociology</i> 97 (2):376-420.	Q1
4	Sep 7	War Memory III	(E-book) Nguyen. <i>Nothing Ever Dies</i> . Prologue to Chapter 1 (pp.1-46)	Q2

5	Sep 12	War Memory IV	(E-book) Nguyen. <i>Nothing Ever Dies</i> . Chapters 2 and 6	Q3
6	Sep 14	War Memory V	Movie & Discussion: <i>Apocalypse Now</i> (Course reserve)	Analytical Essay 1
7	Sep 19	War Memory VI	(E-book) Blight. <i>Race and Reunion</i> (Chapter 8 The Lost Cause and Causes Not Lost)	Q4
8	Sep 21	War Memory VII	Movie: <i>The Birth of a Nation</i> . (Kanopy)	
9	Sep 26	War Memory VIII	(Scanned) Hal Vaughan. <i>Sleeping with the Enemy: Coco Chanel's Secret War</i> . Chapters 9,10,11,12. (Scanned) Judith Warner's review of the book in <i>New York Times</i> .	Q5
10	Sep 28	War Memory IX:	(Scanned) C. Sarah Soh. <i>The Comfort Women: Sexual Violence and Postcolonial Memory in Korea and Japan</i> . University of Chicago Press. (Introduction [pp.1-25], Chapter 4 [pp.145-173])	Q6
11	Oct 3	War memory	(scanned) Young, James Edward. 1993. <i>The texture of memory: Holocaust memorials and meaning</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press. (Chapter 2)	Q7
12	Oct 5	War Memory	(E-book) Karl Jaspers. <i>The Question of German Guilt</i> . Chapter on "Scheme of Distinctions" and Chapter on "Differentiation of German Guilt"	Q8
13	Oct 12	War Memory	(Online access) Hannah Arendt. <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1963/02/16/eichmann-in-jerusalem-i Film: <i>Hannah Arendt</i> (Kanopy)	Analytical Essay 2

1 4	Oct 17	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Articles) Connerton, Paul. 2008. "Seven types of forgetting." <i>Memory Studies</i> 1 (1):59-71. Singer, Jefferson A., and Martin A. Conway. 2008. "Should We Forget Forgetting?" <i>Memory Studies</i> 1 (3):279-285	Q9
1 5	Oct 19	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Scanned) Barbie Zelizer. <i>Remembering to Forget. Chapters 5 & 6</i>	Q10
1 6	Oct 24	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Scanned) Marc Auge. <i>Oblivion</i>	Q11
1 7	Oct 26	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Scanned) Paul Ricoeur. <i>Memory, History, and Forgetting</i>	Q12
1 8	Oct 31	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Online access) George Orwell. <i>1984</i> (Chapters 1-5) (https://www.george-orwell.org/1984) (Scanned) Kundera, Milan. 1980. <i>The book of laughter and forgetting</i> . New York: A. A. Knopf. (Part I. Lost Letters)	Q13
1 9	No v 2	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(E-book) Rieff, David. 2016. <i>In praise of forgetting: historical memory and its ironies</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press. (Chapter 4 "The Victory of Memory over History" & Chapter 5 "Forgiveness and Forgetting")	Q14
2 0	No v 7	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(e-book) Bin Xu. 2017. <i>The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China</i> . (Chapter 4)	Analytical Essay 3
2 1	No v 9	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(E-book) Ben-Ze'ev, Efrat, Ruth Ginio, and J. M. Winter, eds. 2010. <i>Shadows of war: a social history of silence in the twentieth century</i> . Cambridge, UK; New	Q15

York: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 1 by Jay Winter. Chapter 4 by Jeffrey Olick)				
2 2	No v 14	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Scanned) Memory of Silence: The Guatemalan Truth Commission Report (Chapters TBD)	Q16
2 3	No v 16	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Scanned) Louis Michael Seidman. <i>Silence & Freedom.</i>	Q17
2 4	No v 21	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Scanned) Eviatar Zerubavel. <i>The Elephant in the Room: Silence and Denial in Everyday Life</i>	Q18
2 5	No v 28	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Scanned) Louisa Lim. The People's Republic of Amnesia. (Chapters 1, 4)	Q19
2 6	No v 30	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	(Article) Xu, Bin. 2020. "Listening to thunder in the silence on Tiananmen: Politics and ethics of the memory of the June Fourth Movement." <i>China Information</i> . Online first: doi:10.1177/0920203X20956561	Q20
2 7	Dec 5	Silence, Forgetting, and Denial	Spanish Pact of Forgetting Documentary: <i>The Silence of Others.</i> (Kanopy)	Analytical Essay 4