

HIST 585-6: Special Topics in History:

(cross-listed with CPLT 751-1 and PSP 789-2)

Topic: The Work of Memory

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Bammer	TU	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	12

Semester Description:

This course will review some of the key texts and concepts in the emerging field of Memory Studies, with particular emphasis on the connections (and tensions) between history (what happened) and memory (what is remembered and how). In this context, we will explore some of the terms in which memory is talked about, including the distinctions between public, collective, social or cultural, memory, on the one hand, and private, personal, or autobiographical, memory, on the other hand. We will consider the political, ethical, social, aesthetic, and psychological dimensions of remembering – and its counterpart, forgetting – and consider some of the ways in which perspectives and approaches from the field of Memory Studies might offer useful analytical and hermeneutic tools for our work. Along the way, we will attend to some of the ways that the humanities and the natural sciences approach the study of memory differently to ask if and how dialogue across these fields can be generative.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

1. Connerton, Paul. *How Societies Remember*. Cambridge University Press.
ISBN: 0-521-27093-6.
2. Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*. Hackett Publishing Company.
ISBN: 0-915144-94-8.
3. Loraux, Nicole. *Mothers in Mourning*. Cornell University Press.
ISBN: 0-8014-8242-9.
4. Halbwachs, Maurice. *On Collective Memory*. University of Chicago Press.
ISBN: 0-226-11596-8.
5. Schachter, Daniel. *Searching for Memory: The Brain, the Mind, and the Past*. Basic Books.
ISBN: 0-465-07552-5.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

1. Terdiman, Richard. *Present Past: Modernity and the Memory Crisis*. Cornell University Press.
ISBN: 0-8014-8132-5.

Fall 2019

Grading:

- Weekly responses to readings (in either analytical or creative form).
- A semester project will identify a problem in the field of Memory Studies of particular relevance to each student's research interests. Students will select materials and methods conducive to an exploration of this problem and choose a meaningful form in which to present their findings.