

Anthropology 380
Culture, Memory, History

Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

Instructor: Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi

Class time: **Mondays/Thursdays 10:55 - 12:15 o'clock**

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Office: RAB 309, Hours: Mo. 12:30-1:30, Thurs. 12:30-1:30

Phone: (732) 932 98 86

Location of course: RAB 302

Credits: 3

Semester: Spring 2016

Pre-requisites: 101

This course explores theoretical approaches to memory while retaining an emphasis on empirical knowledge of memory in relation to culture and society. A particularly strong emphasis will be laid on the close reading of foundational authors and their primary texts. In detailed discussions we will situate these authors both in time and place and with respect to one another. The course focuses on memory and its failure: the contortions, transformations, inscriptions, and shifting genres that precede, follow, or accompany the universal experience of loss. How do individuals and collectivities confront, deal with, and absolve themselves from loss? The course takes up three major approaches to memory: psychoanalysis (S. Freud), social organization of memory (P. Nora), and associative temporalities (W.G. Sebald). It examines various genres in which the memory of loss is retained, overwritten, distorted, or displaced: memoirs, graphic novel, films, memorials, commemorative ritual, historical investigation (J. Gross), and various other forms of inscription. Memory—the process of recalling something of the past—frequently employs narrative form to organize experience into events. Hence part of the course will inquire into the structure of narrative. How is the past experienced and construed as meaningful story in the present? A better understanding of the memory of loss, and the social forms in which it remains active in the present, has the potential to heighten ethnographic sensibility during fieldwork in observing, interpreting, and analyzing various modes of expression by identifying communicative forms in practice and by comparing culturally specific forms of accounting for the past.

General Reference Works in English:

International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, David L. Sills, editor.

(as far as I know this classic reference work has not been digitalized)

Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology, edited by Alan Barnard and Jonathan Spencer, Routledge. (Call number: GN307.E53 1996)

Encyclopedia of Narrative Theory, David Herman, Manfred Jahn and Marie-Laure Ryan (eds.). (Call number: PN212.R68 2005)

The Edinburgh International Encyclopedia of Psychoanalysis, Ross M. Skelton (editor), Edinburgh : Edinburgh Univ. Press, 2006

The Language of Psycho-Analysis, J. Laplanche and J.B. Pontalis (eds.). Translated by Nicholson-Smith. (Call number: RC437.L313 1974)

Books for Purchase

Books are available at the main store on Reserve at **Mable Smith Douglass Library** and can be bought at the Rutgers University Bookstore:

1. **W.G. Sebald.** 1996. *The Emigrants*. N.Y.: New Directions (Dr. Henry Selwyn, Paul Bereyter, Max Ferber). ISBN 978-0811213660
2. **Jan Gross.** 2001. *Neighbors. The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*. Princeton University Press. ISBN-10: 0142002402
3. **Art Spiegelman.** 1986. *Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History*. NY: Pantheon. ISBN 0-394-74723-2

MOVING IMAGES:

September 11 (2002). Selection directed by Sean Penn.
In Treatment (2008-2010). HBO Series-Director: Paris Barclay, Rodrigo Garcia
(Originally: *BeTipul* by Hagai Levi, Ori Sivan, and Nir Bergman)
Caché [Hidden](2005). Director: Michael Haneke (French with subtitles). Call number: 10-744
Waltz with Bashir (2008). Director: Ari Folman, director. Call number: 10-1724
Mother (2009). Director: Bong Jung-Ho (Korean with subtitles). No Call number.
Die Brücke (1959). Director: Bernard Wickie (German with subtitles), *unfortunately unavailable.*
La battaglia di algeri [The Battle of Algiers](1966). Director: G. Pontecorvo. Call number: 2-706
Memento (2002). Director: Christopher Nolan. Call number: 10-4555

READING LOAD: Variable, but maximally 150 pages/week. All required books are on Class Reserves at **Mable Smith Douglass Library** (8 Chapel Drive, New Brunswick, DC) and selected readings are posted on Sakai. Please inform me immediately if the books are either not available for purchase or on Library Reserve.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA:

The course will be discussion driven, so it is vitally important that you come to class having read and screened all class materials (this includes both, static and moving material). **Midterm Take-Home Exam** (30%), max. 4-5 pages. **Final Take-Home Exam** (30%), max. 4-5 pages, due by May 11. **Class Participation** (40%).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To provide undergraduate-level competency in narrative theory, social construction of memory, psychoanalysis, associative temporalities, the symbolic/imaginary/real distinction, competency in diverse theoretical approaches to history and historiography, society and culture. They will also learn to critically discuss, argue, and appraise, modern and classic anthropological and other texts with and among their peers. Fore-grounded are classic texts that deal with individual and collective forms of memory, rituals of commemoration, structure and function of myth, the configuration of plot structures, individual and national narrative expression, the difference between meaning and sense, representation and identification, explanation and interpretation, construction and deconstruction.

To help advanced students gain proficiency in the use of critical thinking skills in their assessment of analytical texts on history, society and culture, social theory, anthropological and ethnographic narrativization, writing, media representation, and psychoanalysis.

To provide students with the training of reading and presentation skills, the use of central concepts, and a comparative approach to historical depth, as well as cultural and social difference.

To provide students with the academic tools for specialized work through the use of professional dictionaries and encyclopedias.

Week 1. What is Memory? (Thurs. January 21)

1. **Jorge Luis Borges.** 1962. Funes the Memorious. Labyrinths, N.Y.: A New Directions Book, pp. 59-66. [7 pages]
2. **Sigmund Freud.** 1963[1925] A Note Upon the Mystic Writing-Pad. *In* General Psychological Theory, Chapter XIII, pp. 227-232. [5 pages]

Week 2. Symptom & Fixation (Mo. January 25 / Thurs. January 28)

3. **Sigmund Freud.** 1960[1920]. The Meaning of Symptoms. *In* A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis. New York: Washington Square Press, pp. 268-283. [15 pages]
4. **Sigmund Freud.** 1960[1920]. Fixation upon Traumas: The Unconscious. *In* A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis. N.Y.: Washington Square Press, pp. 284-296. [12 pages]

View:

In Treatment, Season 3, “Sunil”- view first 4 episodes (of overall 7).
Each episode is ½ hour long.

Week 3. Mourning, Memory, Melancholia (Mo. February 1/ Thurs. February 4)

1. **Sigmund Freud.** 1963[1917]. Mourning and Melancholia. *In* General Psychological Theory, 164-179. N.Y: Collier Books. [15 pages]

View:

In Treatment, Season 3, “Sunil”- view final 3 episodes (of 7), and “Adele,” episode 7.
Each episode is ½ hour.

Week 4. Objects: Internal and External (Mo. February 8/Thurs. 11 February)

1. **Melanie Klein.** 2002[1940]. Mourning and its Relation to Manic-Depressive States. *In* Love, Guilt, and Reparation and Other Works, 1921-1945. (*The Writings of Melanie Klein*, Vol.1), pp. 344-369. N.Y. Free Press. [25 pages]
2. **Melanie Klein.** 2002[1937]. Love, Guilt, and Reparation. *In* Love, Guilt, and Reparation and Other Works, 1921-1945. (*The Writings of Melanie Klein*, Vol.1), pp. 306-343. N.Y. Free Press. [37 pages]

Week 5. The Social Organization of Memory (Mo. February 15/Thurs. February 18)

1. **Pierre Nora.** 1996[1992]. General Introduction: Between Memory and History. *In* Realms of Memory: Rethinking the French Past. Vol. 1: Conflicts and Divisions. N.Y.: Columbia University Press, pp. 1-23. [23 pages]
2. **Antoine Prost.** 1999. The Algerian War in French Collective Memory, Chapter 8, 161-176. *In* War and Remembrance in the Twentieth Century, ed. Jay Winter and Emmanuel Sivan, Cambridge: CUP. [15 pages]

View:

Caché, Michael Haneke, director, 2005 (French with subtitles)

Week 6. The Literary Organization of Memory (Mo. February 22/Thurs. February 25)

1. **W.G. Sebald.** 1996. The Emigrants. N.Y.: New Directions, (Dr. Henry Selwyn, Paul Bereyter, Max Ferber). *Selections, TBA*

Week 7. Discourse and Narrative Form I (Mo. February 29 / Thurs. March 3)

1. **Hayden White.** 1987. The Value of Narrativity in the Representation of Reality, *In* The Content of the Form. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, pp. 1-25. [pages 25]
2. **Louis O. Mink.** 1978. Narrative Form as Cognitive Instrument. *In* The Writing of History. Literary Form and Historical Understanding, ed. Robert H. Canary and Henry Kozicki. Madison: U of Wisconsin Press, pp. 129-149. [20 pages]

Midterm Take-Home Exam.

Due on Thursday March 10th in class. Maximum 4-5 pages, double-spaced.

Week 8. Memory and Historiography (Mo. March 7/ Thurs. 10)

1. **Jan Gross.** 2001. Neighbors. The Destructions of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland. Princeton University Press. *Selections, TBA*

Recommended:

1. Equal Justice Initiative. 2015. Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror. Montgomery, Alabama: EJI.
2. The case of renaming of the Woodrow Wilson at Princeton University; see New York Times, 2015.

Spring Recess From March 12th to March 20th

Week 9. Story, Discourse, Plot (Mo. March 21/Thurs. March 24)

1. **Jonathan Culler.** 1983. Story and Discourse in the Analysis of Narrative. *In* The Pursuit of Signs. Ithaca: Cornell U P, pp. 169-187. [18 pages]
2. **Peter Brooks.** 1984. Reading for the Plot: Design and Intention in Narrative. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, pp. 3-36. [pages 33]

View:

Waltz with Bashir (2008)-Director: Ari Folman

Week 10. Trauma & Repetition (Mo. March 28/Thurs. March 31)

1. **Lawrence Kirmayer.** 1996. Landscapes of Memory: Trauma, Narrative, and Dissociation, pp. 173-198. *In* Tense Past: Cultural Essays in Trauma and Memory. Antze and Lambek (eds.), New York: Routledge. [25 pages]
2. **Alexandra Fuller.** 2004. The Soldier. *The New Yorker*, March 1, pp. 54-67. [13 pages]
3. **Elena Lappin.** 1999. The Man With Two Heads. *Granta: The Magazine of Writing*, 66, pp. 9-65. [56 pages]

Week 11. Mother & Memory (Mo. April 4/ Thurs. April 7)

1. **John Borneman.** 2015. Knowledgeability and the Materiality of Child Sex Abuse, *In* Cruel Attachments, Chapter 4. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp. 142-159. [17 pages]
2. **Roland Barthes.** 1982 [1980]. Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography. Part Two, pp. 63-110 . New York: Hill and Wang. [47 pages]

View:

Mother (2009)-Director: Bong Jung-Ho (Korean with subtitles)

Week 12. Memory Project I: Capturing Time (Mo. April 11/ Thurs. April 14)

1. **Art Spiegelman.** 1986. Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History. NY: Pantheon. Graphic novel. [159 pages]
2. **James E. Young.** 1992. The Counter-Monument: Memory against Itself in Germany Today. *Critical Inquiry* 18, pp. 267-296. [29 pages]

Week 13. Project II: Disappearance during *Kristallnacht* (Mo. April 18/Thurs. April 21)

P r e s e n t a t i o n by Ryan Stark Lilienthal

Week 14. Memory, Mourning, and Commemoration (Mo. April 25/ Thurs. April 28)

1. **Samuel Hynes.** 1999. Personal Narratives and Commemoration. *In* Jay Winter and Emmanuel Sivan (eds.), *War and Remembrance in the Twentieth Century*, Cambridge: CUP. Chapter 9, pp. 205-221. [16 pages]
2. **Pierre Sorlin.** 1999. Children as war victims in postwar European cinema, *In* Jay Winter and Emmanuel Sivan (eds.), *War and Remembrance in the Twentieth Century*, Cambridge: CUP. Chapter 5, pp. 104-124. [20 pages]

Week 15. Conclusion and Take-Home Exam (Mo May 2)

Last Day of Classes!

Final Take-Home Exam.

Due on Monday May 11. Maximum 4-5 pages, double-spaced.