**Course scheme (Research) Master MA History – Literature Seminar/Research Seminar**

**Leiden University – Faculty of Humanities**

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| **Seminar type** | Literature Seminar |
| **Title Seminar** | Literature Seminar Politics, Culture and National Identities |
| **Specialisation** | PCNI |
| **Year & Semester** |  |
| **Instructor** | dr. H.J. Storm (group 101 and eventually 103) |
| **Time** | See MyTimetable |
| **Room** | See MyTimetable |

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| **1. Course description:**  This seminar focuses on important and fairly recent scholarly views and insights in the field of Politics, Culture and National Identities. The basic assumption behind this seminar is that the study of politics, culture and national identity gains in significance once these aspects are considered from an international comparative and transnational perspective.  The course begins with some theoretical reflections on this field of research. Thereafter, the seminar focuses on important studies of the history of the western world between the French Revolution and the present from an international comparative and transnational perspective. |

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| **Learning objectives:** | General learning objectives  The student has acquired:  1. The ability to analyse and evaluate literature with a view to addressing a particular historical problem;   * 2. The ability to give a clear and well-founded oral and written report on research results in correct English, when required, or Dutch, meeting the criteria of the discipline; * 3. The ability to provide constructive feedback to and formulate criticism of the work of others and the ability to evaluate the value of such criticism and feedback on one’s own work and incorporate it; * 4. The ability to participate in current debates in the specialisation; * 5. (ResMA only): The ability to participate in a discussion of the theoretical foundations of the discipline.   Learning objectives, pertaining to the specialisation   * 6. Thorough knowledge and comprehension of one of the specialisations or subspecialisations as well as of the historiography of the specialisation, focusing particularly on the following;  - in the specialisation **Politics, Culture and National Identities**: political practices, symbols and perceptions, nationalism, and national identities in a cultural and societal context from 1800. * 7. (ResMA only): Thorough knowledge and comprehension of the theoretical foundation of the discipline and of its position vis-à-vis other disciplines. * Learning objectives, pertaining to this Literature Seminar   The student:  8. Has acquired thorough knowledge and comprehension of comparative and transnational history and their role in current historiography. |
| **Assessment and weighing:** | * Essay (2000-2500 words; which should incorporate the knowledge and skills acquired while writing the small assignments) 50% *Measured learning objectives: 1-7* * 6 Assignments (short written reflections on the required reading) 30% *Measured learning objectives: 1-7* * Participation (in class discussions) 20% *Measured learning objectives: 2-3* * For ResMa students only: extra assignment which demonstrates the ability to apply the knowledge and comprehension of the theoretical foundation of the discipline and of its position vis-à-vis other disciplines. *Measured learning objectives: 1-7* |
| **Compulsory literature:** | See weekly schedule |
| **Weekly seminar schedule:**  **Week 1**: Introduction *(all articles can be downloaded through links found on Brigthspace: Literature)*  Simon Macdonald, ‘Transnational history: A Review of Past and Present Scholarship’, UCL Centre for Transnational History, 2013.  Stefan Berger, ‘Comparative History’ in: Stefan Berger, Heiko Feldner and Kevin Passmore eds., *Writing History: Theory and Practice* (2e edition; London 2010) 187-201.  **Week 2:** Politics, Culture and National Identities  Willibald Steinmetz and Heinz-Gerhard Haupt, ‘The Political as Communicative Space in History: The Bielefeld Approach’ in: W. Steinmetz, I. Gilcher-Holthey, H-G. Haupt eds., *Writing Political History Today* (Frankfurt/New York 2013) 11-33.  Megan Vaughan, ‘Culture’ in: Ulinka Rublack ed., *A Concise Companion to History* (Oxford 2011) 227-247.  Eric Storm, ‘A New Dawn in Nationalism Studies? Some Fresh Incentives to Overcome Historiographical Nationalism’, *European History Quarterly* (2018) 1, 113-129.  **Week 3**  Linda Colley, The Gun, the Ship and the Pen: Warfare, Constitutions and the Making of the Modern World (London 2021).  **Week 4**  **No class**  **Week 5**  Stefan Berger, *The Past as History: National Identity and Historical Consciousness in Modern Europe* (Basingstoke 2015).  **Week 6**  Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent. Europe’s Twentieth Century* (London 1998).  **Week 7**  Tiya Miles, *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, A Black Family Keepsake* (New York 2021).  **Week 8**  Exam week: No class (no exam)  **Week 9**  Martin Conway, *Western Europe’s Democratic Age, 1945-1968* (Princeton 2020).  NB. The class will take in a **different room**: group 101 (11-13.00) in the Conference Room, Huizinga 2.60; group 103 (15-17.00) in Lipsius 2.35.  **Deadline Final Paper(s): 12 November**  **Guidelines for assignments:**  *Readings:*   * In all readings students should look for, and analyze the ways in which the author 1) uses the concept of ‘politics’, ‘culture’ and ‘national identity’; and 2) discusses national and transnational phenomena, especially regarding concepts such as ‘comparison’ and ‘transfer’.   *Presentations*   * Those who give a presentation do not have to hand in a short report for that particular session. * The presentations on the theoretical articles in the second session (4 minutes max) should contain your reflections on the more theoretical and methodological issues discussed by the text assigned to you. * The remaining books will be discussed by two students, in a joint presentation (7 minutes max). The presentations follow the same structure as the Short Reports (see there).   *Short reports*   * Two days before each session the students post a short report on the required reading of that week on Brightspace (under Assignments) of about one or two pages (max 500 words). * The short report on the articles (assignment for Week 2) should contain the main arguments of the authors, plus your own brief reflections on their implications (max 600 words). * A short report (or presentation) about a book **should not be a summary, or a book review, but an analysis** of the way the author analyses the past and deals with some of the central questions and concepts of this course.   A) What is the driving force of history according to this author? How does her point of view influence the scope and the composition of the book, as well as its main conclusions (just a few sentences or 1 short paragraph)?  B) How does the author employ the concepts of   * + - Politics     - Culture     - national identity   (How) does she use (or fail to use)   * + - comparison     - transnational approaches   (It is recommended to dedicate a short paragraph to each of these topics)  C) What are the implications of these choices? What is particularly highlighted, and what becomes largely invisible in this book as a result? (a few sentences suffice)  *Final paper*  In about 4 or 5 pages (2000-2500 words)  1) you reflect on the use of international comparison or transnational approaches, the definition of politics, culture and the role of national identities in the five books we have discussed in the course, while applying the concepts and approaches from the 5 theoretical articles;  or  2) you reflect on the possible use of international comparison or transnational approaches, the definition of politics and culture, and/or the role of national identities in your own future MA-thesis; or on the way you did, or did not, use these in your recent BA-thesis. If this is impossible, you may also discuss a different paper you wrote recently.  *Additional Paper for students of the Research Master*  To be determined (based on a few extra articles); extent 2000 words max. Deadline the same as the deadline for the final paper | |
| **Deadlines:** | **○ Final paper(s): 12 November** |
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| **Contact information instructor:** | Dr. H.J. Storm  Huizinga 2.02a  Email: [h.j.storm@umail.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:h.j.storm@umail.leidenuniv.nl)  Office hours: by appointment |