

Memories of War

Fall 2021

TTH 11-12.15

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Office hours: WED 12-1, on zoom

GENERAL REMARKS

This class will be taught online. Every class meeting will be held live via Zoom (Tuesday and Thursday 11-12.15 pm). The Zoom link to the live class will be available on the Canvas page.

I understand that online learning presents many challenges, and I will do my best to make this class as communicative and interactive as possible! I strongly encourage you to attend every live meeting. If you do have to miss a class, please send me an email and, please be sure to catch up by watching the class recording, which will be posted to Canvas weekly.

All assignments will be explained in detail, and I will send out periodic reminders about deadlines. Please make sure to check your UT email and Canvas notifications regularly. Your success in this class is important to me, so please always feel free to ask questions, point out issues, or ask for clarifications.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

How do societies remember complex, traumatic and existential events? This course looks at the manifold ways in which the wars of the 20th and 21st century are remembered in Germany and the United States - from poems, novels and films to monuments and the controversial debates about military conflicts that the two countries have been involved in. Based on theories of social memory, concepts of individual and social mourning and more political approaches such as necropolitics we will analyze how individuals, groups and societies remember the events and experiences of war. We will analyze how war affects individual life stories, how societies mourn, how remembering war may have an impact on national identity, and how war memories become a way to make political demands for the future. In the

empirical part of the course students will work on an online exhibition on Jewish life in Germany.

The course aims at enabling students to understand central theories and concepts of memory studies and to familiarize them with the cultural and social scientific definitions and research perspectives on war, death, trauma, mourning and political activism. At the end of the course, students will have a thorough theoretical and empirical understanding of the ways in which memory and war intersect both as research fields and as cultural, societal and political practices in contemporary societies. Students will be able to independently design a case study, to identify a relevant research question and to carry out a small research project.

III. COURSE MATERIALS

Readings for each class meeting are on canvas. For your research project you will be asked to research additional literature. Our Canvas site is accessible to each of you at <https://courses.utexas.edu> or through your UT Direct account. **Assignments, e-mail reminders and updates will be sent through Canvas. Please check them regularly.**

IV. GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be graded on a 100-point scale which includes + and -:

A 100 % to 93.0%

A- < 93.0 % to 90.0%

B+ < 90.0 % to 87.0%

B < 87.0 % to 83.0%

B- < 83.0 % to 80.0%

C+ < 80.0 % to 77.0%

C < 77.0 % to 73.0%

C- < 73.0 % to 70.0%

D+ < 70.0 % to 67.0%

D < 67.0 % to 63.0%

D- < 63.0 % to 60.0%

F < 60.0 % to 0.0%

Each student will moderate the discussion of a text, participate in an exhibit team and present some scholarly background on their exhibition object as a written brief in class. Your grade will be determined based on the following:

Moderator/discussion leader: 30 percent

Jewish life in Germany brief: 30 percent

Short written and oral comment on somebody else's brief: 20 percent

Homework: 10 percent

Monday question: 10 percent

I. Moderator/discussion leader

Teams of students will be assigned to moderate the discussion on one of the theoretical texts of the course. These moderators/discussion leaders will prepare a short introduction to the text (10 minutes, informal oral presentation) and a handout with questions for the class. The handout will be uploaded on canvas two days before the class meeting. Questions should be about the content of the reading but they should also be thought provoking, and encourage a discussion on how the text is helpful for better understanding connections between memory and war and how the text might help to identify research questions and topics.

2. Jewish life in Germany Brief (2-3 pages)

Written summary and oral presentation on your exhibit object. We will talk about the details in class. Please use a minimum of 4 scholarly sources

3. Comment on somebody else's brief

Ten minutes oral comment on content, sharing ideas and questions that brief raises

4. Homework

Presenting your homework in class, posting your homework on discussion threads, sharing ideas and questions related to your homework in class

5. Post at least two Monday questions and reply to at least two questions, on canvas, discussion thread “Monday questions” (details in class)

V. SCHEDULE AND WORK PLAN

I. Introduction to the course

Date	Topic	Readings
8/26	Introduction, review of the syllabus and course overview	
8/31	Memories of war - some starting points	
9/2	Social memory: an introduction	Lecture BL Erl 2011 Lowenthal 2015 (optional)
9/7	War and memory in Germany	Lecture BL Judt 2005, pp 13-41
9/9	Jewish life in Germany	Lecture BL and discussion
9/14	Jewish life in Germany – start of project work	

II. Social memory and war: theories and concepts

9/16	Collective memory	Halbwachs 1989
9/21	Communicative and cultural memory	Assmann 2013
9/23	Autobiographical memory	Fivush 2011

9/28	Generational memory	Mannheim 1925 Hirsch 2009
9/30	Trauma	Hunt 2011
10/12	The exhibition I	Abrahams 1999, Dean 2002
10/14	Talk by Briscoe Center: How to curate an exhibition	
10/19	The exhibition II	Marincola 2007, Hooper-Greenhill 2006
10/21	Discussion of exhibition	
10/26	Necropolitics	Mbembe 2003
10/28	Politics of the past	Lebow 2006
11/2	Teams work on exhibition	
11/4	Teams work on exhibition	

11/9	Exhibition, “first draft”	
11/11	Exhibit publicity	
11/16	Talk by Dr. Samantha Hill, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research Exhibition goes live	
11/18	Presentations exhibit briefs	
11/23	Presentations exhibit briefs	
11/25	<i>Thanksgiving, no class</i>	
11/30	Presentations exhibit briefs	
12/2	Wrap up and feedback	

University Policies

Resources for New Course Formats:

If you are looking for ideas and strategies to help you feel more comfortable participating in our web-based class, please explore the resources available here:

<https://onestop.utexas.edu/keep-learning/> and <https://longhornsonline.utexas.edu/>

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited:

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

Class Recordings:

Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Religious Holy Days and other absences:

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an exam, an assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. The same applies to official university obligations.

Q Drop Policy:

If you want to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline, which typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information, see: <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please let me know in the first week. For information regarding disability accommodations, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 512-471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone), or visit: www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL):

If you are troubled by someone else's behavior, please note that UT has a Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss your concerns. Call 512-232-5050 or visit www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Academic Integrity:

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Language learning is a long-term process and necessarily involves making mistakes. I am here to help you along the way and I encourage you to work together and with other mentors when learning new material. However, using help from others (including tutors or other advanced speakers of German) on graded assignments is not allowed and will be treated as academic dishonesty. Using online translation packages for any assignments (such as Google Translator) is not permitted.

Since dishonesty harms the individual, other students in the course, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. The website of the Office of the Dean of Students explains the standards of conduct and academic integrity expected of all UT students: <deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>. Students who do not comply with University rules on scholastic integrity are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.

Questions?

Please come and talk to me if you have questions about these items, concerns about the course, or need academic or other advice. I am here to help and I want you to succeed in this course and at UT!