

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Course Profile

Course Number : HSS 423	Course Title : Cultural Memory
Required / Elective : Elective	Pre / Co-requisites : -
Catalog Description: The construction of national and collective memories. Commemoration and ritual. Approaches to the individual, social and national construction of the past. How societies construct cultural continuity through rituals and commemorative activities such as national holidays. Historical consciousness and the creation of a shared past. Monuments as sites of memory. The role of oral history in constructing alternative interpretations of the past.	Textbook / Required Material :
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 5 ECTS	
Extended Description : This course explores critical perspectives on the phenomena of collective memory in contemporary society and the role played by memory in collective and individual identity formation. Cultural memory is the way society ensures its continuity by preserving its collective knowledge from one generation the next, rendering it possible for later generations to reconstruct their cultural identity. The concepts of cultural memory corresponds to studies of other forms of memory in society. We will explore the question of what is meant by ‘collective memory’ and how such remembering is instrumental in making identity in the present. We will examine the way that sites of collective memory (such as historic places, films, anniversaries, books) become laden with political importance, and explore the ways that nation-states use the past to build imagined communities of national heritage. Readings, films, and discussion will address the debates surrounding collective remembering and forgetting.	
Design content : none	Computer usage: No special usage required
<p><u>Course Outcomes:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain how cultural memory is socially constructed by everyday experiences (6,10) 2. Explain the relationships between identity, cultural memory, and history (5,6,14) 3. Demonstrate an appreciation and respect for cultural diversity (6, 12) 4. Demonstrate an understanding of collective memory through their individual experiences (12) 5. Explain historical, political and material conditions in which artistic and cultural expression emerge. 6. Analyze how modes of thought are shaped by sociocultural, historical, political, and economic variables. 10. Synthesize complex ideas in clear, concise ways. 	

12. Recognize relevance of coursework to personal experiences

14. Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with written, oral, and visual means.

Recommended reading

Paul Connerton. 1989. *How Societies Remember*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Maurice Halbwachs. 1992. *On Collective Memory*. Translated and edited by Lewis Coser. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (French original, *La Mémoire collective* Paris, 1950).

Pierre Nora. 1996. *Realms of Memory*. New York, Columbia University Press. (French original *Les Lieux de Mémoire*, Paris, Gallimard, 1984).

Eviatar Zerubavel, *Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past*. Chicago U.P., 2003.

Teaching methods

Lecture, discussion and films

Assessment methods

Midterm

Final

Student workload:

Preparatory reading45 hrs

Lectures, workshops and team work 45 hrs

Relevant outside viewing reading 35 hrs

TOTAL 125 hrs

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