

HIST 440
Spring 2011

The Holocaust and Western Civilization

Department of History
San Diego State University

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Class time: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45
Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:00, or by appointment

Course Scope and Purpose:

The course explores the ways in which the memory of the Holocaust has been shaped since the end of WW2. The course first deals with the ways in which societies shape their shared perceptions of the past through various cultural agents. Next, the course applies key concepts in collective memory studies towards the investigation of the various processes and dynamics that characterize the construction of the memory of the Holocaust in the US, Israel and elsewhere. The course does so via an analysis of representations of the Holocaust featured in historical museums, rituals and various mass media genres.

Course Principals:

- The students are expected to attend all classes, show up on time and to have read the assigned readings for each session.
- Mandatory class readings include articles chosen specifically for the course and all can be accessed online via the blackboard system.
- When in class, students will **turn off** their cell phones, pagers, text-messagers, etc.
- The use of laptops for any other purpose rather than taking class notes is **strictly forbidden**. A failure to meet this requirement will result in a reduction of the student's final grade.
- Students' emails to me will be answered in 72 hours.
- Students with disabilities or who need special consideration are requested to contact me as soon as possible.
- The final take-home exam will cover course materials presented in lectures, assigned readings and class discussions.
- Make sure that your take-home exam is based on your original work. Footnote your sources, indicate direct quotes, and avoid closely paraphrasing your sources.

Plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

Course Assignments and Grading:

Grades will be calculated based on the following weighting:

- **Quiz 1** (scheduled on March 1) = **15%**
- **Quiz 2** (scheduled on April 14) = **15%**
- **Attendance and active participation** = **10%** (You can miss two classes without any consequences. Every missed class not due to a verifiable medical or personal emergency after that will result in reduction of your final grade).

- **Take-home exam** (given to students on April 28; submitted by students on our last meeting, May 10) = **60%**

Class presentations: students (either on their own, or in couples) are invited to present in class **one additional reading** from the syllabus (see list of additional readings at the bottom), or a different relevant reading dealing with collective recollections and/or the history of the Holocaust. Please note: most additional readings do not appear in Blackboard and you will have to locate them via SDSU's library.

The students' presentations will present and discuss the research questions guiding the article and its main findings in a thorough manner. The students will also relate the reading to topics and themes discussed in class. The use of handouts and PP presentations is welcomed. Students will email me a summary of their presentation up to three days before their class presentation.

A choice of reading that does not appear on the list is welcomed, but it requires my approval. Students will choose their additional readings and inform me about their choice by February 1, 2011.

Grades of students who presented a paper in class will be calculated based on the following weighting:

- Quiz 1 = 15%
- Quiz 2 = 15%
- Attendance and active participation = 10%
- Class presentation = 10%
- Take-home exam = 50%

Graduate students:

- Graduate students will present one additional reading in class.
- Graduate students will write a final paper (instead of the take-home exam) that offers an analysis (up to 10 double-spaced pages) of a case-study related to the one of the topic discussed in class. The topics of the papers will be discussed through the semester and they require my approval.

Grading System:

A	94-100
A-	87-93
B+	80-86
B	73-79
B-	66-72
C+	59-65
C	52-58
D	45-51
F	0-44

Course topics and mandatory readings

Introduction: The Fundamentals of Collective Memory Research

Erlil, A. 2008. Cultural memory studies: An introduction. In A. Erlil & A. Nunning (eds.) *Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook*. Mouton De Gruyter, 1-15.

Zelizer, B. 1995. Reading the past against the grain: The shape of memory studies. *Critical studies in mass communication*, June, 214-239.

Between Personal and Collective Memories

Lomsky-Feder, E. 2004. Life Stories, War, and Veterans: On the Social Distribution of Memories. *Ethos*, 32 (1), 82-109.

Changing and Competing Memory Versions

Schwartz, B. 1997. 2008. Collective Memory and Abortive Commemoration: Presidents' Day and the American Holiday Calendar. *Social Research*, 75 (1), 75-110.

Memory and Historiography

Nora, P. 1996. *Realms of Memory: Rethinking the French Past*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997, 1-23.

Zinn, H. 1997. *A People's History of the United States*. New York: New Press, pp. 3-16.

Memory and Trauma

Woodstock, L. 2001, v.21, n.4. Hide and Seek: The Paradox of Documenting Suicide. *Text and Performance Quarterly*, 247-260.

The Holocaust - A Chronology

Browning, C. R. 1998. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: Harper Perennial, pp.xv-xxii, 1-8, 55-77.

Levi, P. 1995. *If this is a Man*. London: Abacus, 17-47, 71-82, 129-136, 157-179.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Holocaust Encyclopedia*
<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/> : What is Genocide?; The Holocaust ; The Holocaust and WW2: Timeline; Ghettos; Einsatzgruppen (Mobile Killing Units); Wannsee Conference and the "Final Solution"; "Final Solution"; Killing Centers; Rescue; Jewish Resistance.

Holocaust Memory in the U.S

Flanzbaum, H. 1999. Introduction, in H. Flanzbaum (Ed.) *The Americanization of the Holocaust*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1-17.

Novick, P. 1994. Holocaust Memory in America, in J. E. Young (Ed.) *The Art of Memory: Holocaust Memorials in History*. New York: Prestel, 159-165.

Roth, P. 2005. *The Plot Against America*. New York: Vintage Books, 1-17, 237-286.

Shandler, J. 1999. *While America Watches: Televising the Holocaust*. New York: Oxford University Press, xi-xvii, 5-40

Holocaust Memory in Israel

Brog, M. 2003. Victims and Victors: Holocaust and Military Commemoration in Israel Collective Memory. *Israel Studies*, 8 (3), 65-99

Elkana, Y. 1988, December, 2. The Need to Forget. *Ha'aretz*.

Keret, E. 2004. Siren, in *The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God & Other Stories*, New York, Toby Press, 57-60.

Keret, E. 2004. Shoes, in *Gaza Blues*. London : David Paul, 59-63.

Meyers, O. & Zandberg E. 2002. The Soundtrack of Memory: *Ashes and Dust* and Holocaust Commemoration in Israeli Popular Culture. *Media Culture & Society*, 34 (2), 389-408.

Nossek, H. 1994. The Narrative Role of the Holocaust and the State of Israel in the Coverage of Salient Terrorist Events in the Israeli Press. *Journal of Narrative and Life History*, 4 (1-2), 119-134.

Shapira, A. 1998. The Holocaust: Private Memories, Public Memory. *Jewish Social Studies*, 4 (2), 40-58.

Towards a Cosmopolitan Memory of the Holocaust

Levy, D. & Sznajder, N. 2002. Memory unbound: The Holocaust and the formation of cosmopolitan memory. *European Journal of Social Theory*, 5, 87-106.

Additional Readings

Collective memory research

Ashuri, T. 2007. Television tension: Collective versus cosmopolitan memory in a co-produced television documentary. *Media, Culture & Society*, 29, 31-51.

- Carlson, M. 2007, v.8, n.2. Journalistic Authority and the Memorializing Discourse around Mary McGrory and David Brinkley. *Journalism*, 165-183.
- Connerton, P. (1989). *How societies remember*. Cambridge University Press.
- Edy, J. A. 1999, v.49. Journalistic Uses of Collective Memory. *Journal of Communication*, 71-85.
- Edy, J. A. & Daradanova, M. (2006). Reporting through the Lens of the Past. *Journalism*, 7.2, 131-151.
- Fracscina, F. 2003. The New York Times, Norman Rockwell and the new patriotism. *Journal of Visual Culture*, v.2, n.1, pp. 99-130.
- Gans, R.M. 2002. The Newseum and Collective Memory: Narrowed Choices, Limited Voices, and Rhetoric of Freedom. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, v.26, n.4, 370-390,
- Gillis, J.R. 1994. Memory and Identity: The History of a Relationship. In *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 3-24.
- Hariman, R. & Lucaites, J. L. 2003. Public Identity and Collective Memory in U.S. Iconic Photography: The Image of "Accidental Napalm." *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, v.20, n.1, pp. 33-66.
- Kimmerling, B. 1995. Academic history caught in the cross-fire: The case of Israeli-Jewish historiography. *History & Memory*, 7 (1), 41-65.
- Kitch, C. 2002, v.36, n.1. Anniversary Journalism, Collective Memory, and the Cultural Authority to Tell the Story of the American Past. *Journal of Popular Culture*, 44-67.
- Meyers, O. 2002. Still Photographs, Dynamic Memories: An Analysis of the Visual Presentation of Israel's History in Commemorative Newspaper Supplements. *The Communication Review*, 5 (3), 179-205.
- Schudson, M. 1997, v.2, n.1. Lives, Laws and Language: Commemorative versus Non-Commemorative Forms of Effective Public Memory. *The Communication Review*, 3-17.
- Schuman, H. and Scott, J. 1989. Generations and Collective Memories. *American Sociological Review*, 54 (June), 359-381.
- Schwartz, B. 1991. Social Change and Collective Memory: The Democratization of George Washington. *American Sociological Review*, 56 (2), 221-236.
- Shapira, A. 1996. Historiography and Memory: Latrun, 1948. *Jewish Social Studies*, 3 (1), 20-61.

Tenenboim Weinblatt, K. 2008, v.9, n.1. Fighting for the Story's Life: Non-closure in Journalistic Narrative. *Journalism*, 31-51.

Vinitzky-Seroussi, V. 2002. Commemorating a Difficult Past: Yitzhak Rabin's Memorials. *American Sociological Review*, 67 (1), 30-51.

West, E. 2002. Selling Canada to Canadians: collective memory, national identity, and popular culture. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, vl.19, n.2, pp. 212-229.

Zelizer, B. 2008. Why memory's work on journalism does not reflect journalism's work on memory. *Memory Studies* v.1,n.1, 79-87.

Zerubavel, Y. 1995. *Recovered Roots: collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition*. University of Chicago Press, 13-36.

Holocaust memory

Baron, L. 2010. The First Wave of American "Holocaust" Films, 1945-1959. *American Historical Review*, February, 1-25.

Des Pres, T. (1988). Holocaust laughter? In B. Lang (ed.), *Writing and the Holocaust*. New York: Holmes & Meier, 216-233.

Flanzbaum, H. (2001). But wasn't it terrific? A defense of liking *Life Is Beautiful*. *The Yale Journal of Criticism*, 14, 273-286.

Loshitzky, Y. 1997. Introduction. In Y. Loshitzky (ed.), *Spielberg's Holocaust: Critical perspectives on Schindler's List*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1-14.

Meyers, O., Zandberg, E. & Neiger, M. (2009). Prime Time Commemoration: An Analysis of Television Broadcasts on Israel's Memorial Day for the Holocaust and the Heroism. *Journal of Communication*, 59: 456-480.

Pinchevski, A, Liebes T. and Herman O. 2007. Eichmann on the Air: Radio and the Making of an Historic Trial. *Historical Journal of Film Radio and Television*, 27(1): 1-26.

Reading, A. 2003. Digital Interactivity in Public Memory Institutions: The Uses of New Technologies in Holocaust Museums. *Media, Culture & Society*, 25.1, 67-86.

Resnik J. 2003, v.9, n.2. "Sites of memory" of the Holocaust: Shaping National Memory in the Education System in Israel. *Nations and Nationalism*, 297-317.

Young, J. E. (1990). When a day remembers: A performative history of Yom Hashoah. *History and Memory*, 1, 54-75.

Zandberg, E. 2006, v.28, n.4. Critical Laughter: Humor, Popular Culture and Israeli Holocaust Commemoration. *Media, Culture & Society*, 561-579.

Zelizer, B. (1997). Every once in a while: Schindler's List and the shape of history. In Y. Loshitzky (Ed.), *Spielberg's Holocaust: Critical perspectives on Schindler's List* Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Zertal, I. 2000. From the People's Hall to the Wailing Wall: A Study in Memory, Fear and War. *Representations*, 69, 96-126.