University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of History

HIST 890 (Graduate Seminar: Topics in History)

History and Memory: An Introduction into Theory, Methodology and Research

Fall 2014

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Karen Hagemann

Time of the Course: Monday: 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Location of the Course: Hamilton Hall 570

Office Hours: Monday: 1:00 – 3:30 pm or by appointment

Office: Hamilton Hall 566

Email: hagemann@unc.edu

AIMS OF THE COURSE

What is the relationship between history and memory? How are these two practices/ways of knowing different from each other? How does memory make history relevant? How does it disrupt and remake history? What methods should historians use to study memory as part of their own historical investigations? How have memories shaped personal identities, popular understandings of the past, communities, and even a sense of nationalism? In the past two decades, historians have become intensely interested in the power of memory in shaping public interpretation and knowledge about the past, but also how memories and counter-memories shape individual’s relationship to that past. This graduate seminar explores the theory, methodology and scholarship on history and memory, and examines some broad questions about the importance of studying collective memory. Although memories can be intensely personal and part of the cognitive processes that make us human, this class will not delve into the new scientific studies on memory (although there are many). This class will also not engage film, literature, poetry, or visual arts, all of which have made their own contributions to a broader field of memory studies. Since this is a history class, we will be concerned, principally, with historical writing on the topic.

March 31, 2014
FORMAT OF THE COURSE

This course is intended to acquaint students with some of the major theoretical and methodological approaches to history and memory. We will seek both to understand some of the theories that have been particularly useful, and we will explore how they have been and can be put to practical use in historical research and writing. The central question of the relationship between history and memory will tie the course together. In the first part we will read some classical texts from scholars such as Maurice Halbwachs, Pierre Nora, Jan and Aleida Assmann, Patrick H. Hutton, Alon Confino and others on the subject of history and memory that are of international and interdisciplinary importance. In the second part we will analyze case studies that explore with a broad variety of approaches the European memories of the First and Second World War.

The heart of the seminar is the discussion in class. The success of this discussion depends on the preparedness of all students. Everyone should have read the week’s assigned readings before class. The seminar will center on their discussion. The course will be a collaborative endeavor in which we investigate theories and methodologies in the field of women’s and gender history because we hope to enhance our own work.

THE READING

We will read book chapters, journal articles and monographs. All students will have to read the REQUIRED READING for each week. I pre-ordered the books at the UNC Text-Book-Store. Articles and book chapters will be available as PDFs on Sakai.

DRAFT COURSE PROGRAM

I: Introduction: Remembering and Forgetting

Week 1:

Monday, August 25, 2014

Introductory Overviews of the Development of Memory Studies

Required Reading:

Week 2:
Monday, September 1, 2014: Labor Day
No Class

II: Theory and Methodology: History and Memory

Week 3:
Monday, September 8, 2014
Social and Collective Memory: Maurice Halbwachs

Required Reading:
- Hutton, Patrick H., History as an Art of Memory (Burlington, Vt., 1993), introduction and 1-26.

Additional Book Reports on:
- Hutton, Patrick H., History as an Art of Memory (Burlington, Vt., 1993). (Plus three reviews)

Week 4:
Monday, September 15, 2014
No Class

Week 5:
Monday, September 22, 2014
No Class

Week 6:
Monday, September 29, 2014
Sites of Memory / Les Lieux de Mémorie: Pierre Nora

Required Reading:
- Nora, Pierre, „Introduction,“ in Rethinking France = Les lieux de mémoire (Chicago, 2001)
- “Lieux de mémorie—Sites of Memory,” in A Companion to Cultural Memory Studies, ed. Astrid Erll and Ansgar Nünning (Berlin, 2010), 19-76.
Additional Book Report on:
• Nora, Pierre, ed., Rethinking France = Les lieux de mémoire (Chicago, 2001), vol. 1. (Plus three reviews)

Week 7:
Monday, October 6, 2014
Cultural and Communicative Memory: Jan and Aleida Assmann
Required Reading:
• “Memory and Cultural History, “in A Companion to Cultural Memory Studies, ed. Astrid Erll and Ansgar Nünning (Berlin, 2010), 77-141 (includes also the above chapter by Assmann)
Additional Book Report on:
• Assmann, Aleida, Cultural Memory and Western Civilization: Functions, Media, Archives (New York, 2011). (Plus three reviews, if necessary in the earlier German edition)

Week 8:
Monday, October 13, 2014
Gender and Memory
Additional Book Report on:
• Paletschek, Sylvia and Sylvia Schraut, eds., The Gender of Memory: Cultures of Remembrance in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Europe (Frankfurt/M., 2008). (Plus three reviews)

III: Case Studies: World War I and II in European Memory

Week 9:
Monday, October 20, 2014
Remembering War: The Great War between Memory and History in the Twentieth Century
Required Reading:
• Winter, Jay M., Remembering War: The Great War between Memory and History in the Twentieth Century (New Haven, 2006). (Plus three reviews)

Additional Book Reports on:

**Week 10:**

**Monday, October 27, 2014**

*Memory, Monuments and Material Culture: The Construction of Word War I Memory in France*

*Visiting Guest: Prof. Daniel Sherman*

**Required Reading:**

• Sherman, Daniel J., *The Construction of Memory in Interwar France* (Chicago, 1999). (Plus three reviews)

**Additional Book Report on:**


**Week 11:**

**Monday, November 3, 2014**

*Gender, Culture and Memory: The First and Second World War in British Memory*

*Visiting Guest: Prof. Susan Pennybacker ?*

**Required Reading:**


**Additional Book Report on:**


**Week 12:**

**Monday, November 10, 2014**

*Conflicting Memories: Word War I and II in Eastern European Memory*

*Visiting Guest: Prof. Don Raleigh ?*

**Required Reading:**

• Petrone, Karen, *The Great War in Russian Memory* (Bloomington, IN, 2011). (Plus three reviews)

**Additional Book Report on:**

• Maria Bucur, *Heroes and Victims: Remembering war in Twentieth-century Romania* (Bloomington, IN, 2009).

**Week 13:**

**Monday, November 17, 2014**

*The Second World War, Vichy and the Resistance in French Memory*

*Visiting Guest: Prof. Don Reid*

**Required Reading:**

March 27, 2013
• Rousso, Henry, *The Vichy Syndrome: History and Memory in France since 1944* (Cambridge, 1991). (Plus three reviews)

Additional Book Report on:

Week 14:

Monday, November 24, 2014

*The Second World War, the Nazi Past and the Holocaust in German Memories*

Required Reading:

Additional Book Reports on:

Week 15:

Monday, December 1, 2014: Final Class

Friday, December 5, 2014: The final review essay is due.
Please bring one copy to my office and send it in addition to me by email.

ASSIGNMENTS

a) Class participation (20 % of the final grade)
It is essential that everyone participate fully and regularly in class discussions. Careful, full, and timely reading of all material assigned for each week is required. Everyone should come to class fully prepared to discuss all the required reading.

b) Preparation of two Class Discussions (15 % of the final grade)
Because we will train how to lead an academic discussion and stimulate an interesting exchange of ideas, each student will be asked to prepare one or two class discussions (this depends on the number of students), together with the others student(s) who are responsible to write a book review for the week.

The introductory presentation of the required reading should not be longer than 15-20 minutes. Students should discuss briefly the main theme of the class, i.e. present the main problems related to this theme, and then summarize first the required reading by focusing on:

• the bio of the author(s) and his/her research interest(s) and main publications (it is encouraged to contact the author and ask him/her about the book and its importance in his/her own research)
• the main interest and questions of the articles/book
• the theoretical and methodological approach of the reading
• the major concepts of the study/studies and their definitions by the author(s)
• the groups of primary documents the author used, their possibilities and limits in respect of the formulated interest and questions
• the structure of the articles/book and their/its argumentation
• the authors’ main thesis and arguments used in support of it
• the perception of the book in reviews by other authors (please select 3-4 reviews, see below) (of course only when a book is assigned).

We will start the discussion of the required reading with a round of first responses to the reading by all students in class.

For the presentation of the required reading in class the responsible student should prepare a handout with a short bio of the author(s) of up to 20 lines (including their current position, the main fields of research, and their 4-5 most important publications, and their website), a brief abstract of each of the assigned articles / the book of up to 20 lines, and a selection of five keyword under which he/she would advertise each of the articles / book.

Please email this handout and up to 3 professional reviews of the required reading latest until Sunday 5 pm before class to all seminar participants.

Please send me your ranked selection of responsibilities for the classes by Sunday, September 7, 2014, noon.

c) Two Book Reviews (15 % of the final grade for each)

The book review has the function to present important monographs and anthologies, which use theories and methodologies in historical practice, to the class. The proposed books thereby add an important dimension to class discussion. The book review should be approx. 1000 words long and be typed, double-spaced on standard size paper. Please define in the headline the journal for which you intend to write. Writing book reviews is part of the obligations of every professional historian, therefore graduate students should learn this. Please identify for which journal you would write the review.

Please email the book review latest until Sunday 5 pm before class to all seminar participants.

In addition the students who prepare a book review are asked to present this book in class. In their oral book report, which should not be longer than 10 minutes, they should follow the model of the presentation of the required reading.

Please send me your ranked selection by Sunday, September 7, 2014, noon.

c) Review Essay (35 % of the final grade)

The review essay should discuss five monographs on one theme related to the subject of the class. You should try to think about a topic for the essay, which is useful for the conceptual framework of your own research interests. To fulfill the requirements of this assignment:

1) Students must turn in a brief one-paragraph statement of their plans for the Review Essay together with a draft title and a

2) bibliography four weeks after the start of the course via email.

3) The final version of the Review Essay must be turned in by email by Friday, December 5, 2014.
Please bring one copy to my office and send it in addition to me by email. The Review Essay should be about 10-15 pages long and be typed, double-spaced on standard size paper.

Selected Literature

Bucur, Maria, *Heroes and Victims: Remembering war in Twentieth-century Romania* (Bloomington, IN, 2009).
Confino, Alon and Peter Fritzsche, eds., *The Work of Memory: New Directions in the Study of German Society and Culture* (Urbana, IL, 2002)


Margalit, Gilad, *Suffering, and Memory: Germany Remembers its Dead of World War II* (Bloomington, IN, 2010).


Petrone, Karen, *The Great War in Russian Memory* (Bloomington, IN, 2011)
Winter, Jay and Emmanuel Sivan, eds., *War and Remembrance in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge, 1999)