

POLI 659: Interdisciplinary Seminar in European Studies

POLI 659
Winter 2021
Thursdays 9-11:25am

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Course Description

This course presents graduate students with the opportunity to explore cutting-edge research in contemporary European studies. It is built around the [Jean Monnet Centre Montreal](#)'s speaker series at McGill. This semester our speaker series and seminar theme is *Europe and Memory*. Students will read guest presenters' work ahead of time and serve as discussants and reviewers for the talks, as well as develop their own research papers related to the course theme. Although this is the core course for the [European Studies Option](#), any graduate student with an interest in European studies is welcome to enroll.

Course Requirements

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Weekly Reviews	25%	Wednesdays by 10pm, weekly
Discussant/Synopsis	20%	Once during the semester
Participation	10%	Weekly
Research Paper	45%	Proposals Feb 23, Papers April 13

In the event of (even more) extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Readings

All readings are downloadable and hyperlinked (be sure you are on the McGill VPN) and/or will be posted on myCourses at least one week in advance of the class. Given the course structure, individual readings may occasionally be added or changed in consultation with the guest speakers as the semester progresses. In no case, however, will readings be altered less than one week in advance of class, nor will students be asked to read more than five papers per class.

Talks/Seminars

Each session with a guest speaker will take place in three parts, all fixed and via Zoom:

1) A public lecture by the guest speaker (9-9:45am). These lectures will be recorded and made available on myCourses and on the Centre's YouTube channel;

2) Discussant presentation/Q&A (9:45-10:25am). This part is open to the public but not recorded; and

3) Discussion with graduate students (10:35-11:25am). This is an informal discussion with the guest speaker and instructor limited to the students enrolled in this course.

Participation

Graduate students should plan to participate in the fixed Zoom sessions each Thursday. In the event that you must miss a fixed class, you should plan to watch the recording of the talk within the following week. If you must miss more than one class during the semester for unavoidable reasons, please contact the instructor to arrange alternative assignments for those dates.

Weekly Reviews

For every week from January 14 onwards, you will submit a written review that briefly answers the following six questions for *each assigned reading*:

- 1) Sum up the most important argument of the reading in **one or two sentences**. What major point is the author trying to make?
- 2) In **one sentence**, point out an important way in which this reading relates to other reading(s) we have done, either this week or in previous weeks.
- 3) Identify the methodology used to support the argument, in **one sentence**.
- 4) Give one important insight and/or new fact that you gained from this reading, again in **one sentence**. That is, what do you now understand or know that you didn't before doing this reading? What was most valuable to you about this reading?
- 5) Give one major critique of the reading, again in **one or two sentences** - consider methodology, logic, biases, omissions, etc. To what extent does the author make the argument convincingly?
- 6) If you heard the author(s) present this work, what probing **question** would you ask?

If the assignment is two or more chapters of a book, consider the book to be a single reading, but your answers may be up to twice as long. Reviews are due by 10pm on Wednesdays via myCourses each week, beginning on January 14 (Week 2). *You do not need to do a review for the week that you are a discussant*. Reviews are not graded, but to earn credit you must answer all six questions for each reading in a thoughtful way.

These reviews are meant to encourage you to think about the readings *before* class, so late reviews are not accepted. That said, you may skip two reviews during the semester without penalty, not counting the week in which you are a discussant. This means that submitting nine or more credit-earning reviews on time will result in an A for this part of the course. Further late or missing reviews will *each* lower your final weekly review mark by one step (i.e., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.).

Discussant/Synopsis

You will serve as the discussant for a guest speaker and write a synopsis of the talk once during the semester. We will choose dates in early January.

Your discussant presentation should last 6-8 minutes. Think of this as if you were a discussant at a conference. What is the key takeaway from the speaker's paper/presentation? What are its strengths and weaknesses? How does it relate to other literatures and issues? What important questions does it raise? Where could it go from here? Being a good discussant is an important and underappreciated skill. Here are two websites ([here](#) and [here](#)) discussing how to do it well.

After the talk, you will write a 450-500-word synopsis that frames the talk for a general audience, summarizing the talk, your comments, and the Q&A in a clear and jargon-free way, as well as explaining succinctly the broader importance of the talk and research. Reviews are due no later than ten days after the talk, submitted via myCourses. With your permission, your reviews may be posted on the [Centre's website](#) and/or disseminated through its newsletter and social media.

Research Paper

Your research paper must be 7,500-10,000 words long (excluding the bibliography), on a topic approved by the instructor. The papers are due by April 13 at 5pm via myCourses; students serving as teaching assistants may have an automatic two-week extension. *To pass the course you must receive a B- or higher on the research paper.*

To ensure that you are on the right track, students will submit a research paper *proposal* via myCourses no later than February 23 at 5pm. Your proposal should be 500-1,000 words long. It should describe both the proposed topic and the likely argument (i.e., thesis) of the paper, and briefly summarize how you plan to investigate and support the argument. In addition, please attach a preliminary bibliography with *at least* 10 scholarly sources to your proposal. Late proposals will lower the mark on your final research paper by one step (i.e., A to A-, etc.).

Grading Scale

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>	<i>Grade Range</i>
A	4.0	>3.84
A-	3.7	3.50-3.84
B+	3.3	3.15-3.49
B	3.0	2.85-3.14
B-	2.7	2.50-2.84
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	
D	1.0	
F	0.0	

This course uses the standard 4.0 system for grading. An A on an assignment is worth 4 points, an A- is worth 3.7 points, etc. To calculate your final grade, I will multiply the grade points you have earned on each assignment by the relative weight of that assignment (e.g. 0.45 for the research paper) and then add the scores together to get your final grade-point average. That average will determine your letter grade for the course (refer the grade range column). For example, if your overall average is a 3.4, you would earn a B+ in the course. At the graduate level, a final grade below a B- is a failing grade.

General Information

Copyright

© Instructor-generated and guest-speaker generated course materials (e.g., lectures, slides, notes, summaries, assignments, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Netiquette

The University recognizes the importance of maintaining teaching spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all involved. To this end, offensive, violent, or harmful language arising in contexts such as the following may be cause for disciplinary action:

1. Username (use only your legal or preferred name)
2. Visual backgrounds
3. "Chat" boxes

To maintain a clear and uninterrupted learning space for all, you should keep your microphone muted unless invited to speak.

Academic Integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

Language

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté.

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Indigenous Land Statement

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

L'Université McGill est sur un emplacement qui a longtemps servi de lieu de rencontre et d'échange entre les peuples autochtones, y compris les nations Haudenosaunee et Anishinabeg. Nous reconnaissons et remercions les divers peuples autochtones dont les pas ont marqué ce territoire sur lequel les peuples du monde entier se réunissent maintenant.

Course Schedule

Week One (January 7) – Introduction: Memory and Power

Carefully read these key scene-setting texts as soon as possible, and no later than January 31. While you do not need to prepare reviews on them, we will refer to them throughout the course.

Müller, Jan-Werner (Ed.). 2002. [Memory and Power in Post-War Europe: Studies in the Presence of the Past](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Read the *Introduction* (Müller, “The power of memory, the memory of power and the power over memory”) and *Chapter 7* (Judt, “The past is another country: myth and memory in postwar Europe).

Misztal, Barbara A. 2003. [Durkheim on Collective Memory](#). *Journal of Classical Sociology* 3(2): 123-143.

Nora, Pierre. 1989. [Between memory and history: Les lieux de mémoire](#). *Representations* 26: 7-24. [La version française est “Entre mémoire et histoire” (1984) on myCourses]

Young, James E. 2016. [The memorial’s arc: between Berlin’s Denkmal and New York City’s 9/11 memorial](#). *Memory Studies* 9(3): 325-331.

Week Two (January 14) – Contemporary Holocaust Remembrance in Europe

Guest speaker: [Jelena Subotic](#), Professor of Political Science, Georgia State University

Talk Title: Yellow Star, Red Star: Holocaust Remembrance after Communism

Readings:

Subotić, Jelena. 2019. [Yellow Star, Red Star: Holocaust Remembrance after Communism](#). Cornell University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2.

Levy, Daniel, and Natan Sznaider. 2002. [Memory unbound: The Holocaust and the formation of cosmopolitan memory](#). *European journal of social theory* 5.1: 87-106.

Mälksoo, Maria. 2009. [The memory politics of becoming European: The East European subalterns and the collective memory of Europe](#). *European journal of international relations* 15.4: 653-680.

Littoz-Monnet, Annabelle. 2013. [Explaining Policy Conflict across Institutional Venues: European Union-Level Struggles over the Memory of the Holocaust](#). *JCMS: Journal of common market studies* 51.3 (2013): 489-504.

Week Three (January 21) – Representation and Restitution in Europe’s Museums

Guest speaker: [Catherine Lu](#), Professor of Political Science, McGill University

Talk Title: Representing Humanity: The Role of Museums in Practices of Disalienation and Non-Alienation in Europe

Readings:

Lu, Catherine. 2020. Representing Humanity: The Role of Museums in Practices of Disalienation and Non-Alienation. Working Paper (available on myCourses).

Bennett, Tony. 1988. [The exhibitionary complex](#). *New Formations* 4: 73-102.

Sarr, Felwine and Bénédicte Savoy. 2018. [The Restitution of African Cultural Heritage: Toward a New Relational Ethics](#) (the Sarr-Savoy Report), pp. 1-62.

De Cesari, Chiara. 2017. [Museums of Europe: Tangles of memory, borders, and race](#). *Museum Anthropology* 40(1): 18-35.

Fossen, T. 2019. [Constructivism and the Logic of Political Representation](#). *American Political Science Review*. 113(3): 824-837. (skim, do not include in weekly review)

Week Four (January 28) - Decolonizing Memory in the EU

Guest Speaker: [Aline Sierp](#), Lecturer in European Studies, Maastricht University, and co-founder and co-president of the [Memory Studies Association](#)

Talk Title: EU Memory Politics and Europe’s Forgotten Colonial Past

Readings:

Sierp, Aline. 2020. [EU Memory Politics and Europe’s Forgotten Colonial Past](#). *Interventions* 22(6): 686-702.

Littoz-Monnet, Annabelle. 2012. [The EU Politics of Commemoration: Can Europeans Remember Together?](#), *West European Politics* 35(5): 1182-1202.

Neumayer, Laure. 2015. [Integrating the Central European past into a common narrative: the mobilizations around the ‘crimes of communism’ in the European parliament](#). *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* 23(3): 344-363.

Kaiser, Wolfram. 2017. [Limits of cultural engineering: Actors and narratives in the European Parliament's House of European History project](#). *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 55(3): 518-534.

Mycock, Andrew. 2017. [After Empire: The Politics of History Education in a Post-Colonial World](#). In Carretero M., Berger S., Grever M. (eds) *Palgrave Handbook of Research in Historical Culture and Education*. Palgrave Macmillan, London.

Week Five (February 4) – The Berlin Wall and Collective Memory in United Germany

Guest Speaker: [Hope Harrison](#), Professor of History and International Affairs, The Elliott School, The George Washington University

Talk Title: After the Berlin Wall: Memory and the Making of the New Germany, 1989 to the Present

Readings:

Harrison, Hope M. 2019. [After the Berlin Wall: Memory and the Making of the New Germany, 1989 to the Present](#). Cambridge University Press. Introduction, Chapter 1, Conclusion, and one other chapter of your choice.

Stevens, Quentin, Karen Franck, and Ruth Fazakerley. 2012. [Counter-monuments: the anti-monumental and the dialogic](#). *The Journal of Architecture* 17(6): 951-972.

Yoder, J. A. 2019. [Angela Merkel's discourse about the past: Implications for the construction of collective memory in Germany](#). *Memory Studies* 12(6): 660–676.

Week Six (February 11) – “Everyday” European Memory Politics

Guest Speaker: [Regina Weber](#), Postdoctoral Researcher, Rhine-Waal University and coordinator of the [GRF-sponsored](#) research project [The Identity Effect of Europeanized Lifeworlds: Becoming European via Football](#)

Talk Title: Non-elite conceptions of Europe: Europe as reference frame among football fans in England and Austria

Readings:

Weber, Regina, Alexander Brand, Arne Niemann, and Florian Koch. 2020. [Non-elite conceptions of Europe: Europe as reference frame in English football fan discussions](#). *Journal of Contemporary European Research* 16(3).

Young, Christopher. 2007. [Two World Wars and One World Cup: Humour, Trauma and the Asymmetric Relationship in Anglo-German Football](#). *Sport in History* 27(1): 1-23.

Bruter, Michael. 2003. [Winning hearts and minds for Europe: The impact of news and symbols on civic and cultural European identity](#). *Comparative political studies* 36(10): 1148-1179.

Jones, Shannon, & Jelena Subotic. 2011. [Fantasies of power: Performing Europeanization on the European periphery](#). *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 14(5): 542-557.

Reifová, Irena. 2018. [The pleasure of continuity: Re-reading post-socialist nostalgia](#). *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 21(6): 587-602.

Week Seven (February 18) - Race, Memory, and Identity in France

Guest Speaker: [Mame-Fatou Niang](#), Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Carnegie Mellon University

Talk Title: Mariannes Noires: Race, Memory, and Identity in France

Readings:

Film *Mariannes Noires* (2016). In French, with English subtitles. Accessible on Vimeo, link and password available via myCourses.

Camus, Jean-Yves. 2006. [The Commemoration of Slavery in France and the Emergence of a Black Political Consciousness](#). *European Legacy* 11(6): 647-655.

Keaton, Trica Danielle. 2010. [The politics of race-blindness:\(anti\) blackness and category-blindness in contemporary France](#). *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 7(1): 103-131.

Derderian, Richard. 2002. [Algeria as a lieu de mémoire: Ethnic Minority Memory and National Identity in Contemporary France](#). *Radical History Review* 83(1): 28-43.

Benjamin, Elizabeth. 2020. [Places and spaces of contested identity in the memorials and monuments of Paris](#). *Modern & Contemporary France*. Online First.

Week Eight (February 25) – Terrorism and Memory in the EU

Guest Speaker: [Ana Milošević](#), Post-Doctoral Scholar, KU Leuven Faculty of Law

Talk Title: (Un)shared European memory: Remembering victims of terrorism

Readings:

Milošević, Ana & Gerome Truc. (Un)shared memory: The EU remembrance day for victims of terrorism. *Politique européenne*. Forthcoming

Milošević, Ana. 2017. [Remembering the present: Dealing with the memories of terrorism in Europe](#). *Contemporary Voices: St Andrews Journal of International Relations* 8.2.

Hajek, Andrea. 2010. [Teaching the history of terrorism in Italy: The political strategies of memory obstruction](#). *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression* 2(3): 198-216.

Verovšek, Peter J. 2016. [Collective memory, politics, and the influence of the past: the politics of memory as a research paradigm](#). *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 4(3): 529-543.

Week Nine (March 11) – Memory Activism and Social Movements

Guest Speaker: Jenny Wüstenberg, [Associate Professor of Twentieth Century History](#) and Director, [Centre for Public History, Heritage and Memory](#), Nottingham Trent University; Co-President: [Memory Studies Association](#)

Talk Title: Shaping Remembrance from Below:
Memory Activism in Europe and Beyond

Readings:

Wüstenberg, Jenny. 2021. Shaping Remembrance from Below: Memory Activism in Europe.

Jerne, C. 2020. [Event-making the past: Commemorations as social movement catalysts](#). *Memory Studies* 13(4): 486–501.

Doerr, Nicole. 2014. [Memory and Culture in Social Movements](#). In Baumgarten B., Daphi P., Ullrich P. (eds) *Conceptualizing Culture in Social Movement Research*. Palgrave Macmillan, London.

Büttner, S. M., & Delius, A. (2015). [World culture in European memory politics? New European memory agents between epistemic framing and political agenda setting](#). *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, 23(3), 391-404.

Week Ten (March 18) – Memory and Forgetting in Post-Franco Spain

Guest Speaker: [Nicole Iturriaga](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute Center on Religious and Cultural Diversity

Talk Title: Exhuming Violent Histories: Forensics, Memory, and Rewriting Spain's Past

Readings:

Iturriaga, Nicole. Exhuming Violent Histories: Forensics, Memory, and Rewriting Spain's Past. Forthcoming, Columbia University Press. Chapter(s) on myCourses.

Boyd, Carolyn. 2008. [The politics of history and memory in democratic Spain](#). The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 617(1): 133-148.

Davis, Madelaine. 2005. [Is Spain Recovering Its Memory? Breaking the " Pacto del Olvido"](#). Human Rights Quarterly, 858-880.

Shevel, Oxana. 2011. [The politics of memory in a divided society: A comparison of post-Franco Spain and post-Soviet Ukraine](#). Slavic Review 70(1): 137-164.

Week Eleven (March 25) – Discourse, Memory, and Historical Analogies

Guest Speaker: [Ayşe Zarakol](#), Reader in International Relations, Cambridge University

Talk Title: The Uses and Abuses of Macro Histories

Readings:

Zarakol, Ayşe. 2021. The Uses and Abuses of Macro Histories. Epilogue of Before Defeat: Rethinking the Decline of the East and the Future of the West. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming. On myCourses.

Cento Bull, Anna. 2016. [The role of memory in populist discourse: the case of the Italian Second Republic](#). Patterns of Prejudice 50(3): 213-231.

Hallgrimsdottir, H. K., Finnsson, A. H., & Brunet-Jailly, E. 2020. [Austerity Talk and Crisis Narratives: Memory Politics, Xenophobia and Citizenship in the European Union](#). Frontiers in Sociology 5(14).

Törnquist-Plewa, B., & Yurchuk, Y. 2019. [Memory politics in contemporary Ukraine: Reflections from the postcolonial perspective](#). *Memory Studies*, 12(6), 699–720.

Week Twelve (April 1) – The World War II Memory Wars

Guest Speaker: [Peter Verovšek](#), British Academy Mid-Career Fellow (2019-21) and Lecturer in Politics/International Relations, University of Sheffield

Talk Title: The EU Caught between 1945 and 1989: Collective Memory and Democracy in Western and Central Europe

Readings:

Verovšek, Peter J. 2020. [Caught between 1945 and 1989: collective memory and the rise of illiberal democracy in postcommunist Europe](#). Journal of European Public Policy. Online first.

Kubik, Jan and Michael Bernhard. 2014. [A Theory of the Politics of Memory](#),” in Bernhard and Kubik, eds, *Twenty Years after Communism: The Politics of Memory and Commemoration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1, pp. 7-34.

Siddi, Marco. 2017. [The Ukraine crisis and European memory politics of the Second World War](#). European Politics and Society 18(4): 465-479

Bachmann, K., Lyubashenko, I., Garuka, C., Baranowska, G., & Pavlaković, V. 2020. [The Puzzle of Punitive Memory Laws: New Insights into the Origins and Scope of Punitive Memory Laws](#). East European Politics and Societies. Online First.

Week Thirteen (April 8) – Memory Entrepreneurs and State-Building

Guest Speaker: [Maria Koinova](#), Professor of International Relations, University of Warwick

Talk Title: Diaspora Entrepreneurs and Contested States in Europe

Guest Discussant: Magdalena Dembinska, University of Montreal

Readings:

Koinova, Maria. 2021. [Diaspora Entrepreneurs and Contested States](#). Oxford University Press. Chapters 1, 3-5. (Intro; Diaspora Entrepreneurs; chaps on Albania/Kosovo). On myCourses.