

ETHN 289: History and Memory

Winter 2007

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Office Hours: Weds. 11:30-12:30; Thurs: 12:30-2:30

Course Description

Over the last twenty or twenty-five years, “memory” has become a central concept for analyzing problems of historical representation and identities. In this course, we will analyze the specific ways in which the concepts of power and memory have been appropriated in diverse narrative forms – including literature, theater, personal testimonies, monuments, museums, and memorials. We will focus especially on those writings that examine the ways in which the mutually-constituted processes of remembering and forgetting work in the production of official discourses of nationalism, history of colonialism, and memory of violence, as well as in the construction of subaltern subjectivities. We will grapple with the difficulties and risks inherent in the methods and techniques of reading and of listening to “ghost stories”—that is, to “truths” that are unspoken or unspeakable. By paying special attention to histories whose traumatic consequences are still actively evolving in today’s world, this course, to cite Shoshana Felman and Dori Laub, “is looking not so much for answers as for new *enabling questions*, questions that would open new directions for research and new conceptual spaces for the yet unborn answers.”

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and active participation.
2. Lead one class discussion. In your presentation, characterize the stakes, methods, and objectives of the book and/or group of articles. Rather than summarize, discuss the interventions the critical works are making; i.e., into what debates are the pieces intervening, how and why, and for what ends? Which disciplinary or theoretical conventions are being criticized, and which employed? You are welcome to bring in additional materials, if relevant.
2. Writing Assignments/Project. You have the following options:
 - a) Three 5-pp response papers, one of which may be written on your presentation and due on the same day. Response papers are due on the day that the readings will be discussed in the seminar. The attached guideline also provides guidelines for your response papers.
 - b) A 15pp. research paper that draws on the course themes and materials. Turn in a one-page research prospectus by week 3.

Required Reading:

Books (available at Groundwork Books on campus)

- 1) Felman, Shoshana and Dori Laub. *Testimony: Crises of Witnessing in Literature, Psychoanalysis, and History*. New York: Routledge, 1992.
- 2) Jenny Edkins. *Trauma and the Memory of Politics*. Cambridge, UK and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- 3) Diana Taylor. *The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003.
- 4) David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*. Cambridge, MA & London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2001.
- 5) Scarry, Elaine. *The Body in Pain : The Making and Unmaking of the World*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- 6) Patchen Markell. *Bound by Recognition*. Princeton University Press, 2003.
- 7) Lisa Yoneyama. *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory*. UC Press, 1999.
- 8) Ethnic Studies Reader -- on E-Reserve

Schedule of Readings

Week 1. Jan 11 -- Introduction

Video "History and Memory" Rea Tajiri, 1991

Week 2. Jan 18 -- History, Memory and Questions of Power – Part I

- Benjamin, Walter. "Theses on the Philosophy of History." In *Illuminations*. edited by Hannah Arendt and translated by Harry Zohn. New York: Schocken Books 1969, pp.243-256.
- Michel Foucault. "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History." Translated by Donald F. Bouchard and Sherry Simon. In *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews*, edited and introduction by Donald F. Bouchard (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1977), pp. 139-164.
- Michel Foucault "Film and Popular Memory." Translated by Martin Jordin. In *Foucault Live (Interviews, 1966-84)*, edited by Sylvere Lotringer and translated by John Johnston. New York: Semiotext(e), 1989, pp. 89-106.
- Klein, KL. (2000). "On the Emergence of Memory in Historical Discourse." *Representations* 69: 127-50.
- Pierre Nora. "Between Memory and History." *Representations* no, 26 (Spring 1989).

- Joan Scott. "The Evidence of Experience" in James Chandler, Arnold I. Davidson and Harry Harootunian, eds. *Questions of Evidence, Proof, Practice, and Persuasion Across the Disciplines* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991), pp. 363-387.
- Ernest Renan. "What Is a Nation?" In Homi Bhabha's *Nation and Narration*.

Week 3. Jan 25 -- History, Memory and Questions of Power – Part II

- Hanson, Ellis. "Undead." In *Inside/Out*. Ed. Diana Fuss. New York: Routledge, 1991.
- Toni Morrison, "Memory, Creation, and Writing," in James McConkey, ed., *The Anatomy of Memory* (Oxford University Press, 1996), pp.212-225.
- Amy Lonetree (Ho-Chunk), "Missed Opportunities: Reflections on the National Museum of the American Indian" in *American Indian Quarterly*, Volume 30, No. 3& 4, Summer/Fall 2006, p. 632- 645.
- Tiya Miles. Ch. 2 (pp. 25-43) and Appendix one: Research Methods and Challenges (pp. 207-213) in *Ties That Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom* by Tiya Miles. UC Press, 2005).
- Caroline Chung Simpson. " 'That Faint and Elusive Insinuation': Remembering Internment and the Dawn of the Postwar." Ch. 1 (pp. 12-42) in *An Absent Presence: Japanese Americans in Postwar American Culture, 1945-1960*. Duke UP.
- Yen Le Espiritu. "The We-Win-Even-When-We-Lose Syndrome," *American Quarterly* 58: 2 (June 2006): 329-352.
- Carole McGranahan. "Truth, Fear, and Lies: Exile Politics and Arrested Histories of the Tibetan Resistance." *Cultural Anthropology* 20 (4); 570-600, 2005.

Week 4. Feb 1 --Crises of Testimony: Literature, Theater, and Psychoanalysis

Felman, Shoshana and Dori Laub. *Testimony: Crises of Witnessing in Literature, Psychoanalysis, and History*. New York: Routledge, 1992.

Allen Feldman, "Memory Theaters, Virtual Witnessing, and the Trauma-Aesthetic." *Biography* 27.1 (Winter 2004): 163-202.

Week 5. Feb 8--Landscapes of Remembering: Monuments, Museums & Memorials

Jenny Edkins. *Trauma and the Memory of Politics*. Cambridge, UK and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Marita Sturken. "Conversations with the Dead: Bearing Witness in the AIDS Memorial Quilt," Ch. 6 (pp. 183-219) in Marita Sturken's *Tangled Memories*.

Lisa Yoneyama. "For Transformative Knowledge and Postnationalist Public Spheres: The Smithsonian Enola Gay Controversy." In Fujitani et al *Perilous Memories: The Asia-Pacific War(s)*. Duke UP.

Karen Till. "Aestheticizing the Rupture" in *The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place*. University of Minnesota Press, 2005.

Week 6. Feb 15 -- Embodied Memory: Performance and Remembering

Diana Taylor. *The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas*. Durham: Duke University Press, 20.

Martin Manalansan. "'To Play with the World': The Pageantry of Identities." Ch. 5 in Manalansan's *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora* (126-151).

Week 7. Feb 22 -- Nationalism and Battles over Memory

David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Cambridge, MA & London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2001).

Thu Huong Nguyen Vo. "Forking Paths: How Shall We Mourn the Dead?" *Amerasia Journal* 31:2 (2005): 157-175.

Ella Shohat. "Rupture and Return: Zionist Discourse and the Study of Arab-Jews." Pp. 330-358 in Ella Shohat's *Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices* (Duke UP, 2006).

Week 8. March 1 -- Memory and the Body

Scarry, Elaine. *The Body in Pain : The Making and Unmaking of the World*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Avery Gordon. "The Other Door, It's Flood of Tears With Consolation Enclosed." Ch. 3 in *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*, pp. 63-135.

Week 9. March 8 -- The Politics of Redress, Reparation, and Recognition

Patchen Markell. *Bound by Recognition*. Princeton University Press, 2003.

Hyunah Yang. 1997. "Revisiting the Issue of Korean 'Military Comfort Women': The Question of Truth and Positionality," *The Comfort Women: Colonialism, War and Sex*, ed. Chungmoo Choi, special issues of *Positions* 5 (1): 51-71.

Norma Field. 1997. "War and Apology: Japan, Asia, the Fiftieth, and After," *The Comfort Women: Colonialism, War and Sex*, ed. Chungmoo Choi, special issues of *Positions* 5 (1): 1-49.

Week 10. March 15 -- The Dialectics of Memory

Lisa Yoneyama. *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory*. UC Press, 1999.