

## Course name: Human Rights and Cultural Representations

- ✓ *Hours of Instruction per Week: 4*
- ✓ *Total weeks: 15*
- ✓ *Total Hours of Instruction: 60*
- ✓ *Courses transferable to ECTS*
- ✓ *Courses transferable to U.S. System*
- ✓ *Recommendation: Advanced written and spoken English*

### Course Description

The cultural and human responses to the violence of genocide politics in the Holocaust will serve as an excellent start point to analyze political repression in Latin America (focus on Guatemala, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile). Central to the theoretical and critical corpus of the course, is the multidisciplinary work of scholars (e.g. Soshana Feldman, Cathy Caruth, Dominick La Capra, Astrid Erll, Jean Amery, Giorgio Agamben). This course discusses not only the impact of trauma, the legacy of memory and the role of the national states during dictatorships in these countries, but also how to make these experiences productive to reconstruct selves and societies. The corpus includes literature, testimonies, documentary and feature film, art, oral history, journalism, poem and popular music by such authors as French Jewish Claude Lanzmann, Chilean film director Patricio Guzmán, documentaries by children of the Argentine disappeared and literature by novelist Laura Alcoba.

### Course Requirements

Following UB policies, students need a minimum of 75% of attendance to be in good standing for the final exam. Sliding the ID card is the only way to track attendance. Students are expected to do close readings, participate significantly in class and do one oral presentation. Requirements also include a mid term and final in-class exams. The exams will have essay format and students will be allowed to use class material in order to answer exam questions.

### Grading Policy

- Participation 20%
- Mid-Term Exam 20%
- Oral Presentation (1) 30%
- Final Exam 30%

## Academic Calendar

### Week 1

Course presentation. Characteristics, expectations and goals for the class. Introduction to some critical and theoretical issues on memory and testimony The frame of the testimony - On the concept of languages and representation. Primary source: Claude Lanzmann's Shoa (Fragment-projection in class)

### Week 2

Cultural artifacts of the Shoa

Jean Amery, At the mind's limits: contemplations by a survivor on Auschwitz and its realities. "At the mind's limits" (1-20)

Memory in Culture Chapter 6 "Literature as a Medium of cultural Memory" (144-172)

Unclaimed Experience, Trauma, Narrative and History. "The wound and the voice" (1-9)

### Week 3

Introducing Latin America: blood and fire

A brief history of the dictatorships in the Southern Cone. Uruguay: 1972, Chile:1973, Argentina: 1976

Chile: Patricio Guzmán, The Battle of Chile (documentary, 1972-1979.Fragments)

### Week 4

Chile

Testimonial source: Arce, Luz. Inferno, a Story of Terror and Survival Patricio Guzmán, Chile the Obstinate Memory (documentary, 1997)

### Week 5

Testimonial source: Arce, Luz. Inferno, a Story of Terror and Survival Patricio Guzmán, Nostalgia for the Light (documentary, 2010)

### Week 6

Chile: artifacts of memory.

Raúl Zurita's poetry Purgatory (in class reading) and Alfredo Jaar (artist, architect, sculptor)

Conclusions on Chile.

### Week 7

Argentina: (1976-1983) Images of disaster/ An unimagined catastrophe

The conditions of a testimony: Pablo Díaz, survivor of the Night of the Pencils, September 16 1976 (La Noche de los Lápices)

### **Week 8**

Feitlowitz, Marguerite. A lexicon of terror: Argentina and the legacies of torture. Introduction (3-20), Alicia Partnoy. The Little School, Tales of Disappearance and Survival (excerpts)

### **Week 9**

Review for mid-term exam

Mid-Term Exam

### **Week 10**

Feitlowitz, Marguerite. A lexicon of terror: Argentina and the legacies of torture. Chapter 1 (21-72), Nora Strejilevich. A single, numberless death (excerpts)

The legacies of terror, the blood of memory. HIJOS: sons and daughters of the disappeared.

(Re) constructing identity(ies)

The Rabbit House (novel, 2009) Laura Alcoba

### **Week 11**

Cont....

The Rabbit House (novel, 2009) Laura Alcoba - Conclusions

### **Week 12**

The gaze that reconstructs what has been lost: children of the disappeared as movie directors.

Mourning and social responsibilities/complicities

M (2007) Nicolás Prividera

### **Week 13**

About Justice and Memory

Juan José Campanella, Secret of their eyes (2009)

### **Week 14**

Jean Amery, At the mind's limits: contemplations by a survivor on Auschwitz and its realities. "Resentments" (62-81)

Review for Final Exam

## Week 15

Final exam

Final Grade Sheet and signature of "Hoja de situación" (attendance is mandatory).

## Literary Sources

- Arce, Luz. *Inferno: A Story of Terror and Survival in Chile*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2004
- Benedetti, Mario. *Witness. (Selected Poems)*. White Pine Press, 2012
- Partnoy, Alicia. *Little School, Tales of Disappearance and Survival*. Cleis Press, 1998.
- Rosencof, Mauricio. *The Letters that Never Came*. Texas Tech University, 2014.
- Strejilevich, Nora. *A Single Numberless Death*. University of Virginia Press, 2002.

## Theoretical and Critical Bibliography

- Agamben, Giorgio. *Remnants of Auschwitz: The Witness and the Archive*. Zone Books: 2002
- Améry, Jean. *At the Mind's Limits. Contemplation by a survivor on Auschwitz and its realities*. Indiana University Press. 1980.
- Caruth, Cathy. *Unclaimed Experience. Trauma, narrative and History*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. "Introduction: The wound and the voice" (1-9). "Unclaimed Experience: trauma and the possibility of history" (10-24). "Literature and the enactment of memory" (25-56). "Traumatic departures: survival and history in Freud" (57-72)
- ----- . *Trauma. Explorations in memory*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995. "Trauma an experience. Introduction" (3-12). "Recapturing the past: Introduction" (151-157). "Notes on trauma and community" (183-199). "The obscenity of understanding. An Evening with Claude Lanzmann" (200-220)
- Dávila, Jerry. *Dictatorship in South America (Viewpoints / Puntos de Vista)*. Willey Blackwell: 2013. (on reserve)
- Didi-Huberman, Georges. *Images in Spite of All, four photographs from Auschwitz*. The University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Evangelista, Liria. *Voices of the Survivors: Testimony, Mourning and Memory in Post-Dictatorship Argentina*. Garland Publishing, new York, 1998.
- Felman, Shoshana. *Testimony. Crises of witnessing in literature, psychoanalysis and history*. Routledge, 1992. "An event without a witness: truth, testimony and survival" (75-92), "The return of the voice: Claude Lanzmann's Shoah" (204-283) (on reserve)
- Friedlander, Saul. "Trauma, memory and transference". En *Holocaust Remembrance, the Shapes of Memory*. Geoffrey Hartman, editor. Cambridge, Blackwell, 1994.
- Johnson, Eric. *Murder and Violence in Latin America..* Willey-Blackwell, 2013.

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- Halbwachs, Maurice. On collective memory. Chicago, 1992. "The social frameworks of memory" (37-167)
- Halperín Donghi, Tulio. The Contemporary History of Latin America (Latin America in Translation). Duke University Press: 1993.
- La Capra, Dominick. History, theory and trauma. Representing the Holocaust. Cornell University Press, 1994. "Introduction" (1-18), "Canon, texts and contexts" (19-42), "Reflections on the historian's debate" (43-68), "Historicizing the Holocaust" (69-110)
- Lowenthal, David. The past is a foreign country Introduction (XV-XXVI), Capítulo 5
- Peters, Edward. Torture. New York, Blackwell, 1985.
- Ros, Ana. The Post-dictatorship Generation in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay: Collective Memory and Cultural Production [Hardcover]. Palgrave Mac Millan:2012.
- Santner, Eric. Stranded Objects. Memory, Mourning and Film in Postwar Germany. Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1990.
- Scarry, Elaine. The Body in Pain: the Making and Unmaking of the World. Cambridge, Oxford University Press, 1985.