

## **Course Title: Holocaust, Memory, and Gender**

**Faculty Name:** Andrea Pető

**Institution:** Central European University (Budapest)

**Semester Taught:** Winter 2009-2010

### **Course Description:**

The course aims to interrogate the emerging field created by the intersection of Jewish Studies and Memory to study the literary and artistic representation of the Holocaust. The course covers the topics of how Memory of Holocaust is inscribed, framed, mediated and performed. The course also consists of field trips to the Jewish monuments of Budapest. It consists of two parts: an overview and theoretical introduction is followed by the analyses of the different forms of representation: literature, ego documents, films, internet, textbooks, statues, monuments, photos, oral histories, you-tube videos.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Preparation for the class includes the readings and the viewing the assigned videos on the course website. There will be two field trips connected to the class. The 3 (three) reaction papers min. 1000 words due before the next class (till Friday 20.00) (30% of each) uploaded on the e-learning site. The papers will be evaluated based on engagement with the literature, demonstrated the ability to select, digest and organize material to produce, to a deadline, a coherent and critically informed arguments.

An active participation in class, discussion and the participation in the field trips will give 10% of the grade.

Feedback: you will receive feedback reports with grades from me four times following each submitted paper on the e-learning site. You are also encouraged to make an appointment with me to discuss the papers.

### **Reaction papers (total 90%)**

#### **1. Photo exercise (mandatory)(30%)**

Additional to the text bring a one photo print out of to the class with references that you think has got the most meaning for you about Holocaust and connect it with key concept(s) from the readings! Be prepared to share your thoughts with the class and to revise your paper following the class!

#### **2. Other (choose one from each of the three categories!) (total 60%)**

##### **A. Field trip related (30%)**

During the visit of the Holocaust Memorial Centre analyze the representation of different experiences of the Holocaust!

Comment on politics of memory in the House of Terror!

Compare your own experiences with the textbooks on the moodle: how to teach the Holocaust!

Analyze the gendered forms of representations in the Jewish Museum and Archive!

### **B. Internet related (30%)**

You-tube: a form of representation. Review the Holocaust and memory related sites!

How internet has changed the ways how Holocaust is represented? Use at least 4 websites to support your arguments!

Based on the transcript of the Ravensbrück film (available on the moodle) answer to the question: who were the victims of the Nazi regime, what kind of narrative strategies are they using, how do they rationalise what happened to them, what were the form of resistance?

### **Learning outcomes**

- construct coherent and independent historical arguments based on critical, comparative evaluation of the sources of different genre
- understanding the power relations how memories were constructed, especially gendering the memories of the Holocaust
- understanding of Holocaust in a broad historical context and its impact on history writing
- making critical and thoughtful use of a range of sources of information about the Holocaust, including ICT
- selecting, organizing and using relevant information in structured explanations of the Holocaust
- understanding the importance of the mass media in confronting the historical experience of the Holocaust, and to place debates around representational conventions and proprieties in historical, cultural and theoretical context
- evaluating validity of an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary approach to the Holocaust
- increasing awareness of local, regional and national heritage and its commemoralisation process; fostering personal responsibility as democratic citizens and promoting respect for human rights, especially for minority groups;
- understanding of some of the major changes how Holocaust was mediated in the past decades

### **Reading Schedule:**

#### **1. Introduction**

Kansteiner, Wulf, "From Exception to Exemplum: The New Approach to Nazism and the 'Final Solution'" in *History and Theory* 1994. 33. pp. 145-171.

LaCapra, D., "Representing Holocaust" in *Probing the Limits of Representation : Nazism and the "Final Solution"*, Friedlander, Saul ed. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992. pp. 108-127.

**Film:** Eyes of the Holocaust (János Szász)

## **2. Remembering Memory: Memory Problem**

Stier, Oren Baruch, *Committed to Memory: Cultural Mediations of the Holocaust*, University of Massachusetts Press, 2003, pp. 1-24.

Reading, Anna, *The Social Inheritance of the Holocaust: Gender, Culture and Memory*. Palgrave 2002. pp. 29-50.

Mushaben, Joyce Marie, "Memory and Holocaust: Processing the Past through a Gendered Lens" in *History of Human Sciences*. 2004. 17. 2-3. pp. 147-185.

Huyssen, Andreas, "Present Pasts: Media, Politics, Amnesia" in Appadurai, Arjun ed. *Globalization* Durham, Duke UP 2001. pp. 57-77.

Clendinnen, Inga, *Reading the Holocaust*. Cambridge: UP Cambridge, 1999. pp. 163-184.

**Film:** Jedwabne documentary

## **3. Remembering: Perpetrators**

Haberer, Erich, "History and Justice: Paradigms of Persecution of Nazi Crimes" in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 2005. 19. 3 pp. 487-519.

Kellenbach, Katharina, von. „Vanishing Acts: Perpetrators in Postwar Germany" in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 2003. 17. 2. 305-329.

**Film:** "2 oder 3 Dinge, die ich von ihm weiß" (Malte Ludin)

## **4. Emblems, Photographs, Memory**

Zemel, Carol, „Emblems of Atrocity. Holocaust Liberation Photographs" in *Image and Remembrance: Representation and the Holocaust*. Hornstein, Shelly, Florence Jacobowitz, eds. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 2003. pp. 201-219.

Hirsch, Marianne, *Family Frames. Photography, Narrative, and Postmemory*. Harvard UP. 2002, pp. 241-268.

Zelizer, Barbie, *Remembering to Forget: Holocaust Memory Through the Camera's Eye*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1998. 141-170.

**Film:** The Photographer (Dariusz Jablonski)

## **5. Mediating Memory: Museums**

Stier, Oren Baruch, *Committed to Memory: Cultural Mediations of the Holocaust*, University of Massachusetts Press, 2003, pp. 110-150.

Reading, Anna, *The Social Inheritance of the Holocaust: Gender, Culture and Memory*. Palgrave 2002. pp. 102-142.

## **6. Framing Memory: Testimonies**

Liebman, Jacobs, "Women, Genocide and Memory: The Ethics of Feminist Ethnography in Holocaust Research" in *Gender and Society* 2004. 18. pp. 223-238.

Goldenberg, Myrna, "Lessons Learned from Gentle Heroism: Women's Holocaust Narratives" in *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 1996. 548, pp. 78-93.

**Film:** Greta (Pasovic)

### **7. Filmic representation**

Reading, Anna, *The Social Inheritance of the Holocaust: Gender, Culture and Memory*. Palgrave 2002. pp. 77-101.

Williams, Linda, "Mirrors without Memory: Truth, History and the New Documentary" in *Film Quarterly* 1991. 32. pp. 357-379.

Avisar, Ila, "Holocaust Movies and the Politics of Collective Memory" in Rosenfeld, Alvin, ed. *Thinking About the Holocaust: After Half a Century*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1997. pp. 39-58.

Kaes, Anton, "Holocaust and the End of History: Postmodern Historiography in Cinema" in Friedländer, ed., *Probing the Limits of Representation*. pp. 206-222.

**Film:** Passing on. A Grandmother's Story (Kathy Leichter)

### **8. Diaries and Egodocuments**

Reading, Anna, *The Social Inheritance of the Holocaust: Gender, Culture and Memory*. Palgrave 2002. pp. 51-76.

**Film:** Anna Frank Diary

### **9. Mediating memory: Internet as representation**

Assmann, Aleida, "History, Memory, and the Genre of Testimony" in *Poetics Today* 2006. 27. 2. pp. 261-273.

A case study: *Centropa collection*, Soah Foundation at CEU

Class held in the computer lab

### **10. Monuments and Statues. Performing Memory: Tourism and Pilgrimage**

Huyssen, Andreas, "Monuments and Holocaust Memory in a Media Age" in *A Holocaust Reader. Responses to the Nazi Extermination*. Morgan, Michael ed. Oxford UP, 2001. pp. 359-363.

Cole, Tim, "Turning Places of Holocaust into Places of Holocaust Memory. Holocaust Memorials in Budapest, Hungary, 1945-1995" in *Image and Remembrance: Representation and the Holocaust*. Hornstein, Shelly, Florence Jacobowitz eds. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 2003. pp. 272-287.

Film: Vom leben und ueberleben. 2003. Videoarchiv Ravensbrueck

### **11. Field trip: House of Terror, Holocaust Documentation Centre**