

Collective Memory and War
Soc 295, Spring 2015
Fridays 2:35 – 3:45; PPHAC 116

Professor Daniel Jasper

PPHAC 316

Office Hours: Posted on blackboard and by office door

djasper@moravian.edu

610.625.7882

Course Description: This course introduces students to the field of Social Studies of Memory through an examination of how war and violence has been commemorated. Topics covered will include: Collective Memory, ‘Official’ and Popular Memory, The Invention of Tradition, and Representations of the Past. Case Studies might include: Masada, WWII and the Holocaust, The Enola Gay controversy and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Course Goals: Through this course, students will:

- Become familiar with the sociological literature on collective memory
- Apply the insights of this literature to commemorations of war and peace
- Analyze the place of war in contemporary culture
- Further develop their ability to debate intellectual and contemporary issues.
- Further develop their ability to work as part of a team.
- Gain experience with professional presentations.

Course Structure and Expectations: This course is designed to be a collaborative investigation into the place of memorialization of war (and peace) in modern societies. We will work together to set the parameters and foci of this inquiry during our first course sessions. We will then work to research our questions, and place our findings within the context of the larger social scientific literature on collective memory. Our class meetings most weeks will have a dual focus: on the one hand we will engage with a strand of memory studies; on the other hand, we will work on our collaborative project. Students will be expected to complete assigned readings and short reflections prior to attending class. During class, we will have short lectures, lengthy discussions, and hands-on activities. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate energetically.

A note on Academic Honesty: All members of this course should read, re-read, and familiarize themselves with the college policy on Academic Honesty included in the student handbook. All work produced for this course must include full and proper citations. There are **no exceptions**, including ignorance. Cheating and plagiarism will result in failing this course.

A note on Accommodations: Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support, at the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Student Assessment and Grading:

9 Weekly responses:	45% (Each worth 5%)
Weekly Participation/Activities	25% (Each meeting worth approx. 2%)
Collaborative Project & presentation	15%
Final Exam	15%

It is within the instructor’s purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Final Grades

	87-89.9 = B+	77-79.9 = C+	67-69.9 = D+
93-100 = A	83-86.9 = B	73-76.9 = C	63-66.9 = D
90-92.9 = A-	80-82.9 = B-	70-72.9 = C-	60-62.9 = D-
Below 60 points = F			

Required Text: Our primary resource to familiarize ourselves with the social scientific literature on collective memory will be:

Jeffrey K. Olick, Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, and Daniel Levy (Eds.) 2011. *The Collective Memory Reader*. Oxford University Press.

This work contains selections from many of the classical texts in this field. We will complement this resource with research studies and other materials. There is a blackboard site for this course, students are expected to enroll.

I will communicate through the announcements feature of blackboard and through Moravian email—it is expected that all students will check these regularly. Please note that I do not open emails without a subject heading. When you send me an email, please include a subject heading that includes a reference to our course (e.g. SocTheory; Soc335; etc).

Course Schedule: Please note, the outline below is merely a guide. Changes are possible (and likely) as the semester progresses. A detailed version of this outline will be maintained on Blackboard. Updates will be made to the detailed schedule, please check this regularly.

Module 1: Setting the parameters and foci of our inquiry.

Week 1: Setting up our work for the semester

-- Friday, January 23rd. **Read:** Course Syllabus, Student Handbook, Materials shared during class. **Complete:** in-class activities.

Week 2: Finalizing the scope of our inquiry

Wednesday, January 28th: Michelle Alexander Lecture at Lehigh

-- Friday, January 30th: **Read:** CMR, Introduction (focus especially on pp. 3-8, 13-16, 36-49). **Complete:** Weekly response on Blackboard.

Module 2: Beginning our inquiry - Case Studies of Memorialization

Week 3: The precursors and foundations of Social Memory Studies

-- Friday, February 6th: **Read:** CMR, de Tocqueville; Marx; Vygotsky; Durkheim; Halbwachs. **Complete:** Weekly response on Blackboard.

Week 4: Delineating the field of Social Memory Studies.

-- Friday, February 13th: **Read:** CMR, Mead; E. Zerubavel; Hobsbawm; Olick; Schudson. **Complete:** Weekly response on Blackboard.

Week 5: From Research to Public Voice

-- Friday, February 20th: **Read:** CMR, Foucault; Connerton; Lipsitz; Kosseleck; Young; Boyer. **Complete:** Weekly response on Blackboard. By the end of class today, we will finalize our proposal

Week 6: The Politics of Memory

Thursday, February 26th: Eric Michael Dyson Lecture at Moravian

-- Friday, February 27th: **Read:** CMR, Popular Memory Group; Ducharme and Fine; Hacking; Huyssen; **Complete:** Weekly response on Blackboard.

Module 3: Presenting our learning

Week 7: Advancing our Project

-- Friday, March 6th: **Read:** TBA. **Complete:** Weekly response on Blackboard.

Week 8

-- Friday, March 13th: No Class Meeting - Spring Break

Week 9: Finalizing our Project

-- Friday, March 20th:

Week 10: Presenting our Work in Progress

-- Friday, March 27: **Attend:** *InFocus conference: "From War to Peace: Building on Narrative and Dialogue to Build a More Just Society in the Lehigh Valley"* to **Present:** our collaborative project.

Module 4: Comparing our cases to other cases

Week 11: Between Memory and History

-- Friday, April 3rd: **Read:** Bloch; Burke; Megill; Eyerman; Hutton

Complete: Weekly response on Blackboard.

Week 12: Thinking about Memory and Identity

-- Friday, April 10th: **Read:** Y. Zerubavel; Schwartz; Bodnar; Thompson. **Complete:** Weekly response on Blackboard.

Week 13: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

-- Friday, April 17th: **Read:** Essays on Blackboard by Wagenr-Pacifici and Schwartz, Sturken, and Hagopian. **Complete:** Weekly response on Blackboard.

Week 14: Remembering the Civil Rights Movement

Thursday, April 23rd: Lecture by James Lawson

-- Friday, April 24th: Read: TBA. **Complete:** Weekly response on Blackboard.

Week 15: Putting it all together

-- Friday, May 1st

Week 16: Exam Week

Final Exam Scheduled for: Monday, May 4th @ 8:30.