

470:388 The Holocaust and Transgenerational Trauma (3 credits)

Professor Gabriele Schwab

Crosslisted with Comparative Literature (01:195:398:02) and Jewish Studies (01:563:395:01)

(In English)

In this course we explore how the legacy of the Holocaust is passed on across the generations. The focus lies on narratives of victims, particularly the descendants of Holocaust survivors, discussed alongside narratives of “children of perpetrators” in the postwar generation in Germany. We ask what happens to psychic, cultural and political life in the wake of unfathomable violence and explore the role of writing, including memoirs and “life writing” in the aftermath of traumatic and haunting histories. We will also include a range of theoretical texts that provide a basic knowledge about trauma, traumatic writing and the Holocaust.

Literature:

Ruth Kluger, *Still Alive* (Weiterleben); ISBN-13: 9781558614369

Art Spiegelmann, *Maus*; ISBN- 0679406417

Philippe Grimbert, *Secret*; ISBN-10- 1846270448

Marguerite Duras, *The War*; ISBN- 9781565842212

Ingeborg Bachmann, Selected Poems from *Darkness Spoken* (bilingual ed.) and *Last Living Words* (English translation);

W.G. Sebald, *On the Natural History of Destruction* (Luftkrieg und Literatur); ISBN- 9780375756573

Selected Poems from Ursula Duba, *Tales of the Child of the Enemy*

Films: *Night and Fog*; *Hiroshima* , *Mon Amour*.

Theory:

Freud, Mourning and Melancholia (in: *On Murder, Mourning and Melancholia*, Penguin Edition); ISBN: 0141183799

Selections from Abraham/Torok, *The Shell and the Kernel*; ISBN- 0226000877

Selections from Dan Bar-On, *Legacies of Silence*; ISBN- 0674521862

Selected articles by Shoshana Felman, Dominick LaCapra, Eric Santner, and Michael Rothberg.

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Undergraduate Class

Gabriele Schwab

Mo/We 2:50-4:10

Requirements:

One paragraph response to each of the readings; 1 short paper; 1 final paper.

Regular and active class participation. Theoretical readings will be integrated with the discussion of the literature and films.

Disability Support Services:

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

Syllabus:

1. 01/20: General Introduction
2. 01/25: Haunting Legacies (Lecture)
3. 01/27: Screening: Resnais, Night and Fog (1955) (31 minutes)
4. 02/01: Resnais, Night and Fog
5. 02/03: Ruth Kluger, Still Alive
6. 02/08: Ruth Kluger, Still Alive
7. 02/10: Ruth Kluger, Still Alive
- 02/15: President's Day
8. 02/17: Ursula Duba, Tales from a Child of the Enemy (Selection of Poems)

- 9.02/22: Duba, "Family Secrets" (to be distributed)
- 10.02/24: Ingeborg Bachmann (Selection)
- 11.03/01: Spiegelmann, Maus (general discussion)
- 12.03/03: Spiegelmann, Maus (the "replacement child")
- 13.03/08: Spiegelmann, Maus
- 14.03/10: Open Session (Student Questions/Discussion of Papers)

Spring Break

15. 03/22: Grimbert, Secret (discussion) **Short Paper due**
- 16.03/24: Grimbert, Secret (lecture)
- 17.03/29: Grimbert, Secret
- 18.03/31: Duras, The War
- 19.04/05: Duras, The War
- 20.04/07: Ingeborg Bachmann, Selected Poems
- 21.04/12: Ingeborg Bachmann, Selected Poems
- 22.04/14: Hiroshima, Mon Amour (Screening)
- 23.04/19: Hiroshima, Mon Amour (Discussion)
- 24.04/21: W.G. Sebald, On the Natural History of Destruction
- 25.04/26: W.G. Sebald, On the Natural History of Destruction
- 26.04/28: Open Session (Student Questions/Discussion of Papers)

Final Paper Due: Monday, May 3 at noon