

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Digital Memory Culture - 54612

Last update 03-09-2020

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Cont. German Studies:politics, Soc.&Cult

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann

Coordinator Email: tobias.ebbrecht-hartmann@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday, 10:00-11:00

Teaching Staff:

Course/Module description:

The emergence of digital technology posed significant challenges as well as opportunities on the preservation and transmission of memory in globalized societies. Although memory was always mediated, digitization offered new and unforeseen storage space for mnemonic objects. Accessibility increased beyond the physical access to archival collections. Documents, photographs, films and testimonies turned into data, which could be related to other data and metadata, thereby constituting a complex net of interlinked memories. Search engines invited users other than experts to explore past events, however, these search functions also offered new and active ways of using, interpreting and transforming records from the past. Social networks rapidly became new memory ecologies, offering a space for sharing memory and adapting analogue forms of commemoration for new media environment. Artificial intelligence and machine learning now enable algorithm based forms of interactively engaging with the past, virtual and augmented realities intensify and advance the encounter with historical sites and computer games introduce new immersive formats of 'playing' the past.

Course/Module aims:

This course focuses on the transformation of collective memory and commemorative practices in the digital age. Based on changing conceptualizations of memory cultures from static collective to dynamic connective memory, we explore a variety of digital formats in historical perspective that offer new and engaging ways of accessing history. While we focus mainly on the specific area of Holocaust memory, which on the one hand has very specific implications and on the other hand played a pioneering role in the development of digital media cultures, we mainly focus on the changing position of the user, especially in context of social media environment and concerning the user's position in advanced technological configurations such as Augmented and Virtual Reality. A specific focus will be on the transformation of Holocaust memory in times of COVID-19. Holocaust related projects, however, will be contextualised also with the use of digital applications in other mnemonic contexts.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- learning about digital forms of commemoration, and the transformation of memory culture in the digital age
- engaging into contemporary discourses on memory cultures
- analysing digital commemorative projects, and applying knowledge of narrative, stylistic and technological conventions in order to understand digital cultures of memory as social and historiographical mediators in the globalised age
- using and applying theoretical and empirical concepts of memory (including

memory conflicts) on digital visual culture
- conducting independent research on digital culture products and platforms

Attendance requirements(%):
80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: TbC

Course/Module Content:

- 1) Introduction: From collective to connective memory - 17 March 2021
- 2) Digital turning point: USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive - 7 April 2021
- 3) New Dimensions in Testimony: USC Holograms - 21 April 2021
- 4) Playing the Holocaust: Games as commemorative space - 28 April 2021
- 5) Virtual Memoryscapes - 5 May 2021
- 6) Augmented Spaces - 12 May 2021
- 7) Selfie culture and self-witnessing - 19 May 2021
- 8) Eva Stories, TikTok POV and Social Media Memory - 26 May 2021
- 9) Digital Memory Project: Corona and Memory - 2 June 2021
- 10) Engaging with the past (VHH)- 9 June 2021
- 11) Experiencing Multilayered memory (INakba) - 16 June 2021
- 12) Hashtag Memories (Throwback89 / @Krieg7071)- 23 June 2021
- 13) Conclusion - 30 June 2021

Required Reading:

A full reading list will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Additional Reading Material:

A full reading list will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Find information here:

<https://digitalholocaustmemory.wordpress.com/2020/07/10/reading-about-digital-holocaust-memory/>

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 60 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 20 %

Research project 20 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: