

The Shoa in European Memory

International Blended Learning Seminar, 14 October – 18 December

With students coming from Lucerne, Paris, Cologne, Berlin, Warsaw, Nijmegen and other Dutch universities this international course focuses on practices of Holocaust remembrance from the wake of World War II to the present. To address the manifold ways in which the Shoa has been incorporated into national, international, and transnational memory practices, we will mobilize a large variety of conceptual, theoretical, and methodological approaches including Holocaust studies, memory studies, public history, museum studies, visual culture, as well as recent scholarship on ethics, space, affect, and materiality. Assuming an international and interdisciplinary perspective, the goal of this seminar is to acquire an in-depth understanding of the social, political, and cultural forces that have been instrumental over the past eight decades in shaping, contesting, and reshaping the memory of the Holocaust in Europe. This perspective will also allow us to examine the uses and limitations of such salient concepts as cultural trauma, counter-monument, prosthetic memory, multidirectional memory, and postmemory.

This international seminar presents a unique opportunity for students from several European countries to collaborate in an international and interdisciplinary setting. From October to December the course will consist of weekly online sessions in the evening hours that will provide venues for the exchange of ideas, reflection on texts, and the analysis of primary sources in small international groups. Twice during the semester, groups of students will prepare a presentation which will be shared and discussed in a plenary session. The online course will be followed by a two-day workshop in the spring semester with voluntary participation.

- English is the main language of communication.
- Participants are in principle MA students but Ph.D. students are also welcome.
- Students will acquire 3 ECTS for participation and activities during the semester. Additional ECTS are possible in relation to additional work done according to the requirements of the respective University.
- Modes of teaching and communication:
 - online lectures and group discussions once a week in the evening
 - collaborative work in groups with outputs in various possible formats (live presentations, videos, podcasts)
 - a two-day workshop in Prague (trip and accommodation financed) – arrival on Sunday, 19 April, departure on Wednesday, 22 April 2026 (voluntary participation). The workshop includes an online introduction to the history of Prague and the Czech Republic on Wednesday, 14 April 2026, 5pm.

The number of participants is limited. Please contact the respective Professor of your University.



Prof. Dr. Franziska Metzger is a professor of history at the University of Teacher Education, Lucerne; director of the MA Public History and director of the department of history.



Dr. László Munteán is assistant professor at the Department of Cultural Studies at Radboud University Nijmegen where he leads the research group Memory, Materiality and Affect.



Dr. Irmgard Zündorf is responsible for Public History at the Leibniz Centre for - Contemporary History in Potsdam and one of the coordinators of the MA study programme Public History of Freie Universität Berlin.



Prof. Dr. Christine Gundermann is a professor of public history at the University of Cologne; she is in charge and head of the MA study profile of public history.



Prof. Dr. Armin Owzar is a professor of Modern and contemporary history at the University Sorbonne Nouvelle / Paris III and head of the master programme at the department of German Studies.



Dr. Katarzyna Bojarska is assistant professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the SWPS University in Warsaw and President of View. Foundation for Visual Culture.