

New York University  
Dept. of Media, Culture, and  
Communication  
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NYU Buenos Aires  
Anchorena 1314

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***Topics in Globalization: Memory and Visual Culture***  
**January 3-19, 2018**  
**NYU Buenos Aires, Argentina**

**Course Description:**

This course examines the intersections of visual culture, commemoration, social movements, and nationalism in an analysis of the politics of memory in the global context. We will examine the debates and contestations over memorialization and artistic engagements with the memory of traumatic events in several key sites around the world, including Argentina, the United States, Chile, and Germany. The course will have a particular focus on the politics of memory at work in Argentina over the memory of its so-called “dirty war” from 1976-1983, with visits to particular sites and projects in Buenos Aires in which artists, architects, activists, and educators are engaging with questions of memory and human rights. It will put these local sites into comparative dialogue with examples of artistic and architectural memorialization in other contexts such as the memorialization of 9/11 in the United States, of the Holocaust in Germany, of state terrorism throughout Latin America.

We will examine the key role of visual culture in the politics of remembrance and the relationship of commemorative politics to social movements. The realization of memory through architecture, design, art, photography, digital media, and museums has been central to the politics of the memory over the last few decades. Through explorations of how art, photography, and design have played a key role in shaping cultural memory in these contexts, we will investigate the aesthetics of memory, the role of pedagogy in remembrance, the spatialization of memory, and the deployment of memory into political action. The course will draw on the scholarship in visual culture and memory studies to examine the politics of memory from a global perspective.

The course will take place over a three week period in Buenos Aires, meeting regularly at the NYU-Buenos Aires site and with field trips to relevant sites in the city, including the Parque de la Memoria, ESMA (a former military school and site of torture that is now a museum and cultural center), the Plaza de Mayo, and Memoria Abierta, a nonprofit organization that has produced a Topografía de la Memoria through the work of designers and architects.

The course will be conducted in English.

**Course Requirements:**

Students are required to attend all seminars, to undertake the reading assignments seriously, and to participate fully in seminar discussions. Readings will be prioritized each class.

Participation is an important part of your grade, and students will be assigned to bring questions to class and to do summaries of the readings. We will have a class blog and students will be expected write a minimum of 5 blog posts while in Buenos Aires, and to respond to the blog posts of classmates. You will be required to produce a written or written/visual project, due within a month after departure from BA. Proposals for projects will be reviewed in the second week of the course.

Grades will be calculated: Participation 20% Blog posts 30% Project 50%

**Required Books:**

All readings will be distributed as essays in pdf in NYU Classes. Please aim to do the readings before the class in which they are assigned.

**COURSE SCHEDULE****WEEK 1:*****Thursday, Jan. 4: Introduction***

9:00 am – 1:00 pm *Buenos Aires City Tour,*

3:00 – 5:00 pm *Class at NYU-BA Borges Classroom*

Reading: (Do these readings before arriving in BA!)

Readings on Argentine Political/Historical context:

David Rock, "The Apogee of Perón, 1946-1955" and "A Nation in Deadlock, 1955-1976" (selected excerpts)

Susana Kaiser, *Postmemories of Terror*, Introduction

Emilio Crenzel, "Toward a History of the Memory of Political Violence and the Disappeared in Argentina"

Jennifer Adair, "Democratic Utopias: The Argentine Transition to Democracy Through Letters"

Katherine Hite, "Voice and Visibility in Latin American Politics"

Beatriz Sarlo, "Cultural Landscapes, Buenos Aires"

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/20/body-found-in-icy-river-could-sway-argentinas-midterm-elections>

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/22/world/americas/argentina-election-mauricio-macri.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/22/world/americas/argentina-election-mauricio-macri.html?_r=0)

**Friday, Jan. 5: Parque de la Memoria**

*Visit to Parque de la Memoria, Guest Speaker: Carolina Golder, Grupo de Arte Callejera*

Reading:

<http://parquedelamemoria.org.ar/en/>

*Monumento a las Víctimas del Terrorismo del Estado Parque de la Memoria* (All essays are in English and Spanish)

Andreas Huyssen, "Memory Sites in an Expanded Field"

Valentina Salvi, "We are all Victims: Changes in the Narrative of 'National Reconciliation' in Argentina"

Recommended:

Brigitte Sion, *Memorials in Berlin and Buenos Aires: Balancing Memory, Architecture, and Tourism*, Introduction and Chapter 4

**WEEK 2:**

**Monday Jan. 8: Models for Thinking about Memory**

11:00 am to 2:00 pm Class at NYU-BA:

*Guest Speaker (second half of class): Camilo Juárez* – founding member of H.I.J.O.S. Foundation

## Reading:

Michael Rothberg, *Multidirectional Memory*, Introduction

Marita Sturken, *Tangled Memories*, Introduction

Andreas Huyssen, "Present Pasts: Media, Politics, Amnesia"

Diana Taylor, "You Are Here: HIJOS and the DNA of Performance" From *The Archive and the Repertoire*

## Recommended:

Juhani Palasma, "Space, Place, Memory and Imagination"

3:00 – 5:00 Visit to Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA)  
Av. Pres. Figueroa Alcorta 3415

**Tuesday Jan. 9: Visit to Ex-ESMA (Ex Escuela Mecánica de la Armada) and Memoria Abierta**

Guest Speaker: Alejandra Sanchez Antelo; guided tours of Espacio Memoria y Derechos Humanos and Memoria Abierta

## Reading:

<http://www.espaciomemoria.ar/english.php>

Gonzalo Conte, "A Topography of Memory: Reconstructing the Architectures of Terror in the Argentine Dictatorship"

Jens Andermann, "Returning to the Site of Horror: On the Reclaiming of Clandestine Concentration Camps in Argentina"

Susana Kaiser, "Argentina's Trials: New Ways of Writing Memory"

## Recommended:

Cara Levey, "Returning to the Scene of the Crime(s): Transformative Trajectories of Sites of State Terrorism," excerpts on the ESMA

Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain* (excerpt)

**Wednesday Jan. 10: Memory Museums and Strategies of Pedagogy**

11:00 am to 2:00 pm Class at NYU-BA

## Reading:

Marita Sturken, "The 9/11 Memorial Museum and the Remaking of Ground Zero"

Diana Taylor, "Trauma as Durational Performance"

Monica Eileen Patterson, "Teaching Tolerance through Objects of Hatred: The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia as 'Counter-Museum'"

Katherine Hite, "Museums and Cold War Memory in the Americas"

"Katherine Hite and Jordi Huguet: Guiding Light"

<https://www.guernicamag.com/katherine-hite-jordi-huguet-guiding-light/>

3:00 to 5:00 (NYU-BA) *Guest lecture*, Florencia Larralde (CIS-CONICET, IDES) on La Plata

**Thursday Jan. 11: Protest and the Street**

10:00 – 1:00 *Class at NYU BA*

Reading:

Diana Taylor “Trapped in Bad Scripts: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo” from *Disappearing Acts*

Adam Rosenblatt, “Politics of Grief”

Recommended:

Diana Taylor, “Acts of Transfer” from *The Archive and the Repertoire*

Adam Rosenblatt, “Aparición con vida: Disappearance and the Politics of the Counterfactual from Argentina to Ayotzinapa”

3:30 Madres de Plaza de Mayo march

**WEEK 3:**

**Monday Jan. 15: Memorials and the Politics of Memory**

11:00 am - 2:00 pm *Class at NYU-BA*

Reading:

Katherine Hite, “Victims, victimizers, and the question of empathy,” Chapter 3 of *Politics and the Art of Commemoration*, pp. 42-62.

Katherine Hite and Marita Sturken, “Stadium Memories: The Estadio Nacional de Chile and the Reshaping of Space through Women’s Memory”

Claudette Lauzon, “A Home for Loss: Doris Salcedo’s Melancholic Archives”

James Young, “Memory, Countermemory and the End of the Monument” and Introduction to *Stages of Memory*

Eric Foner, “Confederate Statues and ‘Our’ History”

Jon Bohland, “Look Away, Look Away, Look Away to Lexington: Struggles over Neo-Confederate Nationalism, Memory, and Masculinity in a Small Virginia Town”

To view:

The Painful History of a Confederate Monument

<https://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/547253/confederate-monuments-graven-image/>

National Lynching Memorial: <https://eji.org/news/eji-announces-plans-to-build-museum-and-national-lynching-memorial>

Recommended:

Marita Sturken, "The Wall and the Screen Memory: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial"

3:00 to 5:00: meetings on project proposals

**Tuesday Jan. 16: Visit to La Plata**

10:00 – 1:00 pm Visit to the Comisión Provincial por la Memoria  
<http://www.comisionporlamemoria.org/>

3:00 – 5:00 Visit to Casa Mariani

**Wednesday Jan. 17: Photography and Memory**

11:00 am to 2:00 pm Class at NYU-BA

Reading:

Marianne Hirsch, "Mourning and Post-Memory"

Leo Spitzer, "The Album and the Crossing"

Marianne Hirsch and Leo Spitzer, "School Photos and Their Afterlives"

Marcelo Brodsky, *Buena Memoria/Good Memory* (view in class)

Gustavo Germano, *Ausencias* (view in class)

Mark Ungar and Katherine Hite, "The Arc of Human Rights"

Recommended:

WJT Mitchell, "What do Pictures Want?"

3:00 – 5:00 Guest lecture on human rights, Felipe Michelini, international human rights lawyer

**Thursday Jan. 18: The Consumerism of Memory**

11:00 am to 2:00 pm Class at NYU-BA

Reading:

Ksenija Bilbija, "Tortured by Fashion: Making Memory through Corporate Advertising"

Marita Sturken, "Memory Tourism"

Brigitte Sion, "Death Tourism and Architourism," from *Memorials in Berlin and Buenos Aires: Balancing Memory, Architecture, and Tourism*, Chapter 5  
Katherine Hite, "Empathic Unsettling and the Outsider Within Argentine Spaces of Memory"

3:00 Graffiti Walking Tour Villa Urquiza and Coghlan

***Friday Jan. 19: Presentations and Conclusions***

10:00 am to 1:00 pm Class at NYU-BA

Discussion of projects