

UHON3090 – Honors Enrichment Seminar/ WRIT 3030H - Selected Topics in Writing: Narrative, Memory, and Identity in Post-Communist Albania

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Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Corfu
Summer 2012**

Class schedule: May 17-June 5, 2012

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Course Description:

It is widely recognized that the half century of cold-war isolation under often brutal communist regimes constitutes an unresolved traumatic past for the transitional societies of the former Soviet Bloc. As the trials of transition have made clear, histories of repressive surveillance, detention, torture, and execution under dictatorship remain pervasively present, not simply in individuals' memories and identities, but in the structures and institutions through which democracy must evolve. The problem of how to confront and re-work these pasts is central to developing democratic societies. Post-conflict and transition societies have employed a diverse range of testimonial strategies that attempt to rework the past in ways that are enabling. These include public exhibitions and museum installations, the commissioning of memorials, fact-finding missions and historians' tribunals, the establishment of truth and reconciliation commissions and international criminal tribunals, and official apologies. In *Narrative, Memory, and Identity*, American students will learn about this cold war history by studying the testimonial projects that attempt to work through the traumatic legacy of this history.

Based in Albania and affiliated with European University of Tirana and the United Nations Development Project Brain-Gain Albania, students will work closely with professionals in international development and civil society as well as with university students to explore the legacy of traumatic experience under authoritarian regimes. As ethnic Albanian identity has played an important role in conflicts in Kosovo and Macedonia and is a factor in Greco-Balkan relations, we will be traveling to neighboring countries to study the competing historical narratives of identity and nation mobilizing conflict, linguistic territories/ communities and regional contests over genealogy, the cultural master narratives constructing nationalist identities, and unresolved contests over how to remember and interpret the past underlying the ethnic and territorial wars of the 1990s in the Balkans region. We will pay special attention to the interplay between individual and collective identity and how these are factors in border formation and security, trafficking, and border-crossings.

The objectives of this course are for you: 1) to identify the key points of the literature on narrative, memory, and identity; 2) apply your knowledge of the literature to an analysis of

historical sites, memorialization projects, and daily interaction with our Albanian cohorts; 3) to apply overall concepts to a contemporary issue on which you conduct independent research.

Research Paper – 18-20 page paper (joint with POLS 3335) - 40%

Journal – 20%

Final exam – 20%

Attendance and Participation – 20%

Research paper: The research paper will be 18-20 pages in length, plus works cited. The purpose of the paper is for you to research one of these topics: Balkan wars and conflict, post-communism, territory and identity, ethnic conflict, linguistic territory, traumatic memory and identity, collective memory and narratives of national identity. The paper must refer to components from both POLS 3335 AND WRIT 3030. Papers are due by the end of Summer Term A, on **June 18**. The paper will not receive a full grade if it is late, except under unusual circumstances for which the instructor provides permission. Papers that are late will receive 5 points off the grade for each day late (including weekend days).

Objective of research paper: to strengthen your research skills, learn to use a theory to explain an actual international territorial dispute or the memory and identity issues at stake in unresolved conflict situations; understand specific characteristics of the traumatic impact of conflict on populations, analyze data, case studies, and/or relevant information to test the validity of your theory, and improve your academic writing skills.

Attendance & Participation:

Objective of attendance and participation: to learn from discussions of readings, to engage in significant discussions, guest lectures, service experience, cultural experiences, and overall travel abroad.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to follow the Georgia Southern Student Code on academic integrity and civil conduct while in this class (no cheating, plagiarizing, etc). If you have questions about proper citation, please see the instructor.

Required Readings:

Course Reader (available at bookstore) and online readings

Proposed Class Schedule & Readings:

Week of March 26 *Orientation, pre-trip planning*

Week of April 9 *Introduction to course, expectations*

Week of April 23 *Identity*

[Selections from](#) Gillis, John R. ed. *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity*

Day 1, 2, 3, & 4: *Nationalism, National Memory and Identity*

- [Eyal, Gil. Identity and Trauma Two Forms of the Will to Memory](#)
- Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights <http://www.linguistic-declaration.org/decl-gb.htm>
- Ballinger, Pamela. [History in Exile: Memory and Identity at the Borders of the Balkans](#)
- Olick, Jeffrey States of Memory: Continuities Conflicts, and Transformations in National Retrospection. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2003.
- [Irwin-Zarecka, Iwona. Frames of Remembrance: The Dynamics of Collective Memory.](#) New Brunswick; London: Transaction Publishers, 1994.
- [Introduction Time, Materiality, and the Work of Memory Yannis Hamilakis and Jo Labanyi History & Memory, Vol. 20, No. 2 \(Fall/Winter 2008\)](#)
- Edmunds, June, Bryan S. Turner *Generational Consciousness, Narrative, and Politics* <http://books.google.com/books?id=zmYtDAHKL7EC&pg=PA57&dq=collective+memory#v=onepage&q=collective%20memory&f=false>
- Zerubavel, Eviatar. "Introduction: The Social Structure of Memory." [Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past.](#) Chicago; London: The University of Chicago Press
- "Calendars and History: A comparative Study of the Social Organization of National Memory"
- Butler, Judith and Gayatri Spivak *Who Sings the Nation State*
- Uma Narayan

Day 5, 6 & 7 & 8 *Communist Genealogies, Post-Communist Legacies*

- Roudometof, Victor. [Collective Memory, National Identity, and Ethnic Conflict: Greece, Bulgaria, and the Macedonian Question](#), 2002
- Obradovic-Wochnik, Jelena. "[Knowledge, Acknowledgement and Denial in Serbia's Response to the Srebrenica Massacre](#)" in *The Journal of Contemporary European Studies* 17: 1,6 – 74. April 2009
- Pleines, Heiko, Ed. [Crises and Conflicts in Post-Socialist Societies: The Role of Ethnic, Political and Social Identities.](#) Sabine Fischer (Series Editor). : Ibidem-Verlag, 2008.
- Byford, Jovan. " '[Shortly afterwards, we heard the sound of the gas van](#)': Survivor Testimony and the Writing of History in Socialist Yugoslavia" in *History & Memory*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (spring/summer 2010) pp. 5 – 47
- [Ingimundarson, Valur. "The Politics of Memory and the Reconstruction of Albanian National Identity in Postwar Kosovo" by Valur Ingimundarson in History and Memory pp.](#)

- Ger Duijzings "[Commemorating Srebrenica: Histories of Violence and the Politics of Memory in Eastern Bosnia](#)". The New Bosnian Mosaic: Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Post-War Society. Ed. Xavier Bougarel, Elissa Helms, and Ger Duijzings. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007.
- ARCT [Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Former Politically Persecuted in Albania](#), Tiranë 2002
- Arend Lijphart, "Consociational Democracy," *World Politics*, January 1969, p. 207-225, available through *JSTOR database*.
- [Booth, James W. *Communities of Memory: On Witness, Identity, and Justice*](#). Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2006

Day 9, 10, 11, & 12 *Post-Communism, Political Transition, Identity Transition*

- Austin, Robert. "Post-Communist Transitional Justice in Albania." *Eastern European Politics and Societies*, Vol. 22, issue 2, 2008 pp. 273 – 401.
- [de Brito, Alexandra Barahona, Carmen González-Enríquez, and Paloma Aguilar *The Politics of Memory: Transitional Justice in Democratizing Societies*](#). In the Oxford Studies in Democratization. Series Editor: Laurence Whitehead. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001
- [Ciobanu, Monica. *Europe-Asia Studies* vol 61 no. 2 March 2009 pp. 313 – 336 *Criminalising the Past and Reconstructing Collective Memory: The Romanian Truth Commission*](#) by Monica Ciobanu
- [González-Enríquez, Carmen](#). "De-communization and Political Justice in Central and Eastern Europe." In [The Politics of Memory: Transitional Justice in Democratizing Societies](#). Eds. de Brito, Alexandra Barahona, Carmen González-Enríquez, and Paloma Aguilar In the Oxford Studies in Democratization. Series Editor: Laurence Whitehead. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. Pp. 218 -247.
- [Hofmann, Birgit. "Don't talk to communists: The Instrumentalisation of the communist past in the Czech Republic's Political Crises of 2006"](#) in *Crises and conflicts in post-socialist societies: the role of ethnic, political and social identities* pp. 115 – 126 Stuttgart: Ibidem-Verlag 2008
- [Luca, Iona. *Rethinking History* Vol. 13 No. 1 March 2009 pp. 79 – 93 Ioana Luca "Post-communist life writing and the discourses of history: Vesna Goldsworthy's *Chernobyl Strawberries*](#)
- [The Unfinished Revolution: Making Sense of the Communist Past in Central-Eastern Europe](#) - James Mark; Hardcover
- Pusca, Anca M. "The Aesthetics of Change: Exploring Post-Communist Space." Paper prepared for the 2008 International Studies Association Conference, San Francisco, CA. accessed 17 April 2008
- Boyarin, Jonathan (1994). *Remapping Memory: The Politics of Time Space* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press).
- Irwin-Zarecka, (1993). 'In Search of Usable Pasts,' *society*, 30 (2): 32 – 36.

- [Places of Pain and Shame: Dealing with 'Difficult Heritage' \(Key Issues in Cultural Heritage\)](#) chapters in reader

Day 13 & 14 Trafficking

- Tabaku, Arben and Sarah Stephens. October 2008. The Albanian Initiative: Coordinated Action Against Human Trafficking. The State of Efforts in Albania to Combat Trafficking of Persons, 2007 – 2008. United States Agency for International Development. Accessed 23 October 2009.
http://www.caaht.com/Drafts/SAT%202007_08%20Rpt_CAAHT_Eng.pdf
- Selections from Glenny, Misha. *McMafia: A Journey through the Global Criminal Underworld*.
- Nikolic-Ristanovic, Vesna. *Sex Trafficking: The Impact of War, Militarism and Globalization in Eastern Europe* http://www.globalizacija.com/doc_en/e0058sim.htm
- Anastasijevic, Dejan. "Organized Crime in the Western Balkans" http://www.etc-graz.at/cms/fileadmin/user_upload/humsec/Workin_Paper_Series/Working_Paper_Anastasijevic.pdf