

**The College of the Humanities**  
**BHum Program: Hums 4902B; Fall Term**  
**Violence, Story, Identity**

**Kimberly Stratton**  
**Thursday 11:30-2:30**  
**PA 303**

**Office hours: Thur. 2:30-4pm (PA 2A51), ext. 1384**  
**kim.stratton@carleton.ca**

**Course Description:**

This course examines the powerful role that stories play in shaping collective identity, focusing especially on stories about trauma and violence. Groups of people tell stories about traumatic events from their past, which become an indelible part of their collective identity, and even in some cases become valorized as central to a group's sense of who they are. Stories about past victimization or triumph become templates for understanding and responding to events such as war, terrorist attacks, colonial occupation, and oppression. Mythic victories and heroes can likewise operate as paradigms that incite rebellion, or merely provide a dose of pride and hope in abject circumstances. The course will engage extensively with theoretical approaches to identity, violence, narrative, trauma, and cultural memory, applying these theories to case studies as diverse as the Exodus, Crucifixion of Christ, and Sikh Nationalism. We will look at how stories are especially important for maintaining a community in exile, under occupation, or for refugees. The complex interaction between memory and story, mythology and personal experience will also be a focus of this course.

**Course Objectives:**

Through close readings of theoretical and secondary analytical studies, this course will advance the interpretive skills of fourth-year students, enabling them to engage with contemporary academic debates and theoretical conversations in the Humanities and Social Sciences pertaining to Identity, Memory, Narrative, and Violence. By engaging with multiple and varied theoretical approaches as well as specialist studies that apply them, students will learn how to critically read and engage theoretical arguments, utilize them to conceptualize a research problem or question, and produce a

theoretically inflected analytical research paper by the end of term. This course compliments the emphasis on engaging primary sources that characterizes the BHum curriculum. It will help prepare students to enter graduate programs in the Humanities and Social Sciences or advance to pre-professional programs such as law.

**Course Requirements:** Attendance and participation (30%), Weekly “Learning Cells” on the reading assignments (15%), Final Research Essay ~ 20pp (40%), and Research Presentation ~ 30 min. (15%).

**NB:** All assigned readings are available on reserve through the ARES website.

### Course Schedule:

**Sept. 7**      **Course Intro**

**Read:** Bruce Lincoln, *Discourse and the Construction of Society*, Ch 1 (pp. 15-26)

### THEORY

**Sept. 14**      **Narrative and Identity**

**Read:** Anthony Paul Kerby, *Narrative and the Self*, Ch. II. (pp. 32-64).

**Sept. 21**      **Violence**

**Read:** Bruce Lincoln, “Violence,” in *Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (pp. 199-213) **AND** Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain*, Ch. 1 “The Structure of Torture,” (pp. 27-59)

**Sept. 28**      **Memory**

**Read:** Jan Assman, *Religion and Cultural Memory*, “What is ‘Cultural Memory’?” (pp. 1-30)

**Oct. 5**      **Trauma**

**Read:** Peter Levine, *Trauma and Memory*, Ch 1 (pp. 1-14) **AND** Arthur Neal, *National Trauma and Collective Memory*, Ch 1 (3-19)

**Oct. 12**      **Story**

**Read:** Michael Jackson, *The Politics of Storytelling*, “Preface” (pp. 11-36) **AND** “In Extremis: Refugee Stories/Refugee Lives” (87-106)

## CASE STUDIES

- Oct. 19**      **Exodus**  
**Read:** Exodus (in Bible) **AND** Kimberly Stratton, "Narrating Violence, Narrating Self: Exodus and Collective Identity in Early Rabbinic Literature" (*History of Religions*, vol. 57, no. 1. August 2017: 68-92)
- Oct. 26**      **FALL BREAK -- No Class**
- Nov. 2**        **Jesus**  
**Read:** Gospel of Mark (in Bible) **AND** Christ Keith and Tom Thatcher, "The Scar of the Cross," in *Jesus, the Voice, and the Text*, ed. Thatcher (pp. 197-214)
- Nov. 9**        **Legacy of American Slavery**  
**Read:** Ron Eyerman, "Cultural Trauma: Slavery and the Formation of African American Identity," in *Cultural Trauma and Collective Identity*, Ch. 3 (pp. 60-111)
- Nov. 16**      **Sikh Diaspora**  
**Read:** Brian Keith Axel, *The Nation's Tortured Body*, Ch. 3 (pp. 121-157)
- Nov. 23**      **Holocaust**  
**Read:** Jackie Feldman, "Nationalizing Personal Trauma, Personalizing National Redemption," in *Remembering Violence*, ed. Argenti and Schramm, Ch. 5 (pp. 102-134)
- Nov. 30**      **Student Presentations**
- Dec. 7**        **Student Presentations**



## University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### Academic Integrity at Carleton

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Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

### Academic Accommodation Policy

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#### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Religious obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

## Grading System at Carleton University

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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System Chart](#)

## Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

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Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

## Statement on Class Conduct

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The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and

preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

## Deferred Term Work

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In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

## Deferred Exams

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Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office **no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination;** and
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and in cases of illness by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to: [Registrar's Office](#)

## Withdrawal From Courses

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

**NEW FALL 2017:** WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

**Dates can be found here:** <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

## Department Contact Information

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**College of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

**Registrar's Office** 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

## Student Resources on Campus

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)