Is there such as thing as "global Holocaust memory"? How and why does Holocaust memory circulate across national and cultural borders? How do memories of the Holocaust interact or compete with those of other historical traumas (African slavery, the genocide of Indigenous peoples) and how has Holocaust memory been reanimated in the service of other political projects? Why did the Holocaust serve as a catalyst to the emergence of memory studies in the late 20th century and to more recent transnational and transcultural directions in the field?

This course will explore intersections among the fields of memory studies, Holocaust studies, postcolonial studies, and trauma studies. We will begin by discussing classic theorizations of the Holocaust and its relationship to cultural and aesthetic representation, engaging with canonical works of Holocaust literature and art. We will then consider the global circulation or "cosmopolitanization" of Holocaust memory through an analysis of literary and visual texts as well as museums and memorials that bring the Holocaust into conversation with colonial histories of trauma, raising thorny issues about uniqueness, comparison and claims to universality.

Over the course of the term, we will examine a variety of forms of memory, including: multidirectional, competitive, visual, prosthetic, postmemory, and countermemory. We will give particular attention to the intersection between media and cultural memory and to the role of text and image in mediating, preserving or erasing memories of atrocity.

In order to further develop our discussion of the comparative and global dimensions of Holocaust memory, in the final two weeks of the course, students will present case studies that explore the relevance of the theorizations of memory we have studied to the particular genres, media, and cultural histories that drive their own research interests.
Tentative Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>attendance and participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1 session as discussion leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>conference-paper style presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>final paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tentative list of texts:

- W.G. Sebald, *Austerlitz*
- Art Spiegelman, *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale*
- Caryl Phillips, *The Nature of Blood*
- Esi Edugyan, *Half-Blood Blues*

All other course readings will be available in electronic format via CULearn and the Ares Course Reserves system (http://libares01.carleton.ca/) or the library catalogue.

Suggested background reading and resources:

- The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s online Holocaust Encyclopedia: [https://www.ushmm.org/learn/holocaust-encyclopedia](https://www.ushmm.org/learn/holocaust-encyclopedia)
Tentative Schedule of Readings

week 1
INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

week 2
HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS AND MUSEUMS: THE "MEMORY BOOM"

  - Focus on pp. 29-38, "Did the Holocaust Cause Memory Studies?"


week 3
UNREPRESENTABILITY: THE ABSENCE OF MEMORY


week 4
TESTIMONY: COUNTERMEMORY


• **screening:** video testimony

• **visual art:** *Forbidden Art* exhibition, Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

week 5

**AUTHENTICITY: VISUAL MEMORY**


• **novel:** W.G. Sebald, *Austerlitz* (2001)

week 6

**TRANSMISSION: POSTMEMORY, PROSTHETIC MEMORY**


• Alison Landsberg, "America, the Holocaust, and the Mass Culture of Memory: Toward a Radical Politics of Empathy." *New German Critique* 71 (Spring - Summer, 1997): 63-86.

• **graphic narrative:** Art Spiegelman, *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale* (1986)

week 7

**COMPARISON: MULTIDIRECTIONAL MEMORY**


**week 8**

**HOLOCAUST ICONS: THE CIRCULATION OF MEMORY**


• **poems**:

• **artwork**: Carl Beam, *Ceramic bowl ("Anne Frank 1924 – 1945")* (1987)

**week 9**

**THE HOLOCAUST AND GLOBALIZATION: THE TRANSNATIONAL TURN IN MEMORY STUDIES**


week 10
MINI-CONFERENCE I
• presentation of student conference papers (schedule TBA)

week 11
MINI-CONFERENCE II
• presentation of student conference papers (schedule TBA)