

SPRING 2009-HISTORY 397

History Colloquium

Politics of Memory in Europe after World War II

As one historian recently commented, “Remembering’ World War II requires no immediate experience of those years.” Indeed, in the years during and after the war, European countries were developing their own conceptions of what the war meant, which parts were to be canonized within a narrative of national histories, and which parts were to be ignored, excised or otherwise removed from popular memory. This course examines European cultural production — literature, cinema, the visual arts, along with the production of History itself — on the topic of World War II. We attempt to grapple with the “drama” of the Second World War as it played out in Europe after the war itself ended. This course is broadly comparative, touching upon a multitude of national narrative of the war, but focusing on four countries: Britain, France, Germany, and the Soviet Union.

Students are expected to participate actively in discussion, in addition to writing short response papers in preparation for each meeting, and a longer paper (10-12 pages) due at the end of the term.

Day: Tuesday / Thursday

Time: :100-4:00 p.m.

Place: 2347 Mason Hall

Instructor: Joshua First