

# COURSE DETAIL

## NARRATIVES, REPRESENTATIONS, AND USES OF THE PAST

**Country**

France

**Host Institution**

Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

**Program(s)**

Sciences Po Paris

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

History

**UCEAP Course Number**

110

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

NARRATIVES, REPRESENTATIONS, AND USES OF THE PAST

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

NARRATIVES OF PAST

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## Course Description

The history of historians is part of a range of representations and appropriations of the past. It differs from them while echoing them. The scientific approach, based on a quest for truth and objectivity, using procedures and rules for the administration of evidence, coexists with a multitude of social and political relationships with the past, which have continued to multiply over the last forty years. Memorial claims, demands for reparations, ideological constructions, and the reinvention of traditions fuel numerous and contradictory discourses on the past, which take various forms (literature, cinema, visual arts, commemorations, collections, etc.). The past is a shared object, the uses of which are at the heart of political and social conflicts, particularly through the spread of the phenomenon of victim competition. The challenge of this course is to understand the logic and forms of these various uses, while defining the specificity of historical knowledge, its requirements, and its objectives. It also involves questioning its possible role in the current context marked by the resurgence of political nationalism, religious fanaticism, and attacks on democracy.

### Language(s) of Instruction

French

### Host Institution Course Number

AHIS 25F11

### Host Institution Course Title

RÉCITS, REPRÉSENTATIONS ET USAGES DU PASSÉ

### Host Institution Course Details

<https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202510%2F284721=>

### Host Institution Campus

### Host Institution Faculty

### Host Institution Degree

Lecture

**Host Institution Department**

History

**Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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