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/?202510/284721

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Lecture

Host Institution Department
History

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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