

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

Historians are part of the process of representing, writing, and appropriating the past. Their approach is based on a quest for truth and objectivity, and on precise procedures to provide evidence. This endeavor coexists with the multiple social and political interpretations of the past, which have proliferated over the last forty years (referred to as the so-called “memory boom”). Due to memory claims, demands for reparations, ideological constructions, and the invention of tradition, numerous and contradictory discourses have flourished and taken on various forms (literature, cinema, visual arts, commemorations, collections, etc.). As a shared object, the past is at the heart of political and social conflicts, notably through the major process of “competitive victimhood”. The goal of this course is to understand the background, logic, and forms of these various uses of the past, and to define the specificity of historical knowledge, its requirements and objectives, as well as its possible role in the current context of political nationalism, ideological negationism, religious fundamentalism, and massive assaults against democracy.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

AHIS 25A11

Host Institution Course Title

NARRATIVES, REPRESENTATIONS AND USES OF THE PAST

Host Institution Campus

English Lecture

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

History

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