COURSE DETAIL

MEMORIES OF WARS, WARS OF MEMORY
Country France
Host Institution UC Center, Paris
Program(s) Social Justice and Activism
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology History Comparative Literature
UCEAP Course Number 155
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title MEMORIES OF WARS, WARS OF MEMORY
UCEAP Transcript Title MEMORIES OF WARS
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

An annexed territory and the only colony of settlement in the French Empire, Algeria was officially a part of France, and its loss represents not only a dramatic territorial amputation (more than twice the size of metropolitan France) but also a traumatic symbolic and ideological shift. Long repressed, cloistered and today fragmented and manipulated, the painful and sensitive memories of the colonization of Algeria and the subsequent War of Independence have contributed to the construction of a deeply divided society in France. This course examines the multiple relations between Franco-Algerian history, memory, and minority identities as represented in contemporary France (Algerian immigrants and their "French" descendants, Sephardic Jews, Harkis, Pieds-Noirs, mixed-race individuals). Other groups of people living in France participated in the Algerian War, such as conscripts, professional soldiers, porteurs de valise (French who supported the Algerian nationalists), and all claim different and often conflicting histories. The course material consists of scholarly texts (articles from different disciplines), literature (three novels), and a few films. The course examines how these different resources elaborate memorial discourses carrying public claims of Franco-Algerian identity. The different minority stances often contradict the official French (and, incidentally, Algerian) narrative(s) while being in conflict with the State’s interest. Through interdisciplinary critical readings, this class studies in depths the concept of "representation" and its several meanings: the mental representation (memory of a historical trauma), artistic representation (literature, films), historical representation (conventional narratives and non-conventional approaches), and political representation (representativeness). The analysis of diverse forms of discursive practices about the French colonial past in Algeria, leading to contemporary processes of minority identifications and "community" dynamics in France, allows the class to deepen its understanding of current debates about “wars of memory” and “competitive victimhood” in French society, while reflecting upon issues of citizenship and possible ways to think of conflicted identities as a legacy of colonialism and immigration.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

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Host Institution Course Details
https://uceap.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/DocumentLibrary/IQBJN1UymZtQQL3qW_7Dl64DAed9...

Host Institution Campus
UC Center, Paris

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

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