

History, Memory, and Forgetting of Defeat and Guilt: The United States and Germany

WP 8 The Study of History: Advanced Concepts

summer term 2026 Tu 2-4 pm Schellingstr. 3VG, room S 201 6 ECTS

Dr. Andreas Etges (etges@lmu.de)

room 206; office hours: Tu 12-1 pm or via Zoom (make appointments by email
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<https://moodle.lmu.de/course/view.php?id=46425>

Password: LostCause

Credit Requirements

- regular and active class participation
- reading of texts
- oral presentation
- research paper based on primary documents (ca. 25.000 characters)

This seminar takes a comparative look at how the United States and Germany have dealt with their difficult pasts. For the US, the focus will be on slavery, the Civil War, and racism, for Germany on World War II and the Holocaust.

This seminar is part of the “Munich Summer Program,” offered by the Amerika-Institut during the summer term. It is open to students from US partner universities, especially the University of Georgia in Athens. Regular class sessions will begin in mid-May, and there will be special (compact) sessions later in the term, as well as walking tours, museum visits, and day tours (Munich, Dachau, and Nuremberg). Dates will be announced before the term starts. Special class activities, excursions, and a guest speaker are sponsored by the Halle Foundation in Atlanta.

19 May Intro – History and Memory

Jan Assmann and John Czaplicka, Collective Memory and Cultural Identity, in: *New German Critique* 65 (1995), 125-133

Aleida Assmann, Forms of Forgetting, Lecture, October 2014

additional texts:

Jan Assmann, Communicative and Cultural Memory, in: A. Erll/A. Nünning (eds.), *Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook*, Berlin 2008, 109-18

John Connerton, Seven Types of Forgetting, in: *Memory Studies* 1.1 (2008), 59-71

Maurice Halbwachs, *The Collective Memory*, New York 1980 (orig. 1950), 22-30, 44-55

Pierre Nora, Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Memoire, in: *Representations* 26 (1989), 7-24

26 May Holiday (no class)

2 June The Lost Cause: Remembering the Civil War and Southern Monuments

Edward A. Pollard: *The Lost Cause. A New Southern History of the War of the Confederates*, New York 1866, 750-52

David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory: The Civil War in American Memory*, Cambridge, MA 2009, 255-299

Caroline E. Janney, The Civil War in Public Memory, in: Aaron Sheehan-Dean (ed.), *The Cambridge History of the American Civil War* vol 3, Cambridge 2019, 481-505

2 June 4:15 pm tour NS Documentation Center Munich

“The former ‘Party District’ of the NSDAP around Königsplatz” (ca. 2 hours)

9 June Civil War Battlefields, the National Park Service, and the 100th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War

Robert E. Weir, The Graying of Gettysburg National Military Park: Race, Erasure, Ideology, and Iconography, in: Lawrence A. Kreiser Jr./ Randal Allred (eds.), *The Civil War in Popular Culture: Memory and Meaning*, Lexington, KY 2014, 61-82

John Bodnar, *Remaking America: Public Memory, Commemoration, and Patriotism in the Twentieth Century*, Princeton 1991, 206-226

Dwight T. Pitcaithley, Public Education and the National Park Service: Interpreting the Civil War, in: *Perspectives* (Nov. 2007)

J. Christian Spielvogel, *Interpreting Sacred Ground: The Rhetoric of National Civil War Parks and Battlefields*, Tuscaloosa: 2013, 152-158

16 June The Nazi Past and the Two Germanys

Norbert Frei, *Adenauer's Germany and the Nazi Past. The Politics of Amnesty and Integration*, New York 2002, XI-XV, 303-312

Jeffrey Herf, *Divided Memory: The Nazi Past in the Two Germanys*, Cambridge, MA 1997, 373-394

Cornelia Rauh-Kühne, Life Rewarded the Latecomers: Denazification During the Cold War, in: Detlef Junker (ed.), *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945-1990: A Handbook, Volume 1: 1945–1968*, Cambridge 2004, 65-72

19 June (Friday) Day Tour Nuremberg

7:26 am train from Munich main station (RB16)

10:15 am arrival at Nuremberg main station

11-1 pm Tour of the Former Nazi Party Rally Grounds

lunch break

Memorium Nuremberg Trials

3 pm Court Room 600: Time Travel

sometime after 4:30 pm: you can leave Nuremberg individually

23 June The Auschwitz Trials and “Eichmann in Jerusalem”

Hannah Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem I: Adolf Eichmann and the Banality of Evil, in:

The New Yorker, February 16, 1963 (excerpt)

Devin O. Pendas, “Eichmann in Jerusalem”, Arendt in Frankfurt: The Eichmann Trial, the Auschwitz Trial, and the Banality of Justice, in: New German Critique 100 (Winter, 2007), 77-109

30 June The TV series *Holocaust* and the Americanization of the Holocaust

Tom Dreisbach, Transatlantic Broadcasts: Holocaust in America and West Germany, in: Penn History Review 16.2 (2009), 76-97

Peter Novick, Is the Holocaust an American Memory? Berlin 2002

Natan Sznaider, The Americanization of Memory: The Case of the Holocaust in: Ulrich Beck, Natan Sznaider, and Rainer Winter (eds.), Global America? The Cultural Consequences of Globalization, Liverpool 2004, 174-187

30 June 4:15 pm Talk by Daniel Greene on the Americanization of the Holocaust

7 July The Historians Debate and the exhibit on the Crimes of the German Wehrmacht

Forever in the Shadow of Hitler? Original Documents of the Historikerstreit, the Controversy Concerning the Singularity of the Holocaust. Atlantic Highlands, N.J 1993, 16-23, 34-44, 130-134

Jane Caplan et al., The Historikerstreit Twenty Years On, in: German History 24 (2006) 587-607

Hannes Heer, The Head of Medusa: The Controversy Surrounding the Exhibition “War of Annihilation: Crimes of the Wehrmacht, 1941-1944,” in: Hannes Heer et al. (eds.), The Discursive Construction of History: Remembering the Wehrmacht's War of Annihilation, New York 2008, 227-250

7 July 4:15 pm Talk by Akela Reason (UGA) on Politics and Memory: Union Civil War Monuments

10 July Day Tour Dachau (10 am-4:30 pm)

10 am meeting at Besucherzentrum of KZ Gedenkstätte Dachau (directions)

- guided tour (Franzi Müller)

1 pm lunch break

2-4 pm session in seminar room with Dr. Kerstin Schwenke, director of the educational

department

afterwards: option to spend more time in the exhibit

14 July Current Controversies in Germany and the United States

16 July

12-6 pm America 250

film, talk, panels at the Amerika-Institut, followed by the summer fest at 6 pm

2.15 talk and conversation on US memory culture and museums

Charles Woods, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and Nicole Moore, National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta