FR4311 Trauma and Narrative in the Francophone World

Credit Weighting: 5

Semester(s): Semester 2.

Teaching Method(s): 24 x 1hr(s) Lectures.

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Caroline Williamson Sinalo, Department of French.

Lecturer(s): Dr Caroline Williamson Sinalo, Department of French.

Module Objective: To explore the relationship between theory and experience in a range of Francophone narratives of trauma

Module Content:
This module will introduce students to theories of trauma from Freud to the present day. Through the study of a range of francophone texts about major traumatic events (WWII, the Rwanda genocide, terrorism etc.), students will examine the strengths and weaknesses of different theories and consider the role of narrative in understanding atrocity. The module will also encourage students to contemplate the politics and ethics involved in representing what is often considered ‘unrepresentable’.

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- Describe and explain a range of different theories of trauma
- Analyze fictive and non-fictive narratives of traumatic events, drawing on different theories studied
- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of different theories of trauma in relation to the texts
- Contextualise ideas in their political and historical milieu
- Demonstrate engagement in independent research
- Express ideas clearly and effectively in the context of a well-constructed argument, in conformity with academic conventions

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment 100 marks (1 x 3,000 word essay).

Compulsory Elements: Continuous Assessment.

Penalties (for late submission of Course/Project Work etc.): Work which is submitted late shall be assigned a mark of zero (or a Fail Judgement in the case of Pass/Fail modules).

Pass Standard and any Special Requirements for Passing Module: 40%.
Lecture schedule:

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<td>Overview and introduction to theories</td>
<td>Introduction to narratives</td>
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Reading list:

Core Trauma Texts

Georges Perec, *W ou le souvenir d’enfance* (Éditions Denoël, 1975) - WW2 childhood memories, the Holocaust, autofiction

Marie-Célie Agnant, *Le livre d’Emma* (Vents d’ailleurs, 2004) - slavery’s legacies, intergenerational transmission of trauma, interpreting

Testimonies of Rose and Spéciose (2011 and 2004) (Spéciose included in Wendy Whitworth, *We survived: Genocide in Rwanda* (Quill press, 2006)) - first hand audiovisual testimonies of Rwandan genocide survivors

Core Theory Texts

Psychoanalysis


The Medical Model

DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria for PTSD Released, [http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/PTSD-overview/dsm5_criteria_ptsd.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/PTSD-overview/dsm5_criteria_ptsd.asp)

Anti-Psychiatry

**Postcolonial Theory**


**Trauma Theory I**


**Trauma Theory II**


**Posttraumatic Growth Theory I**


**Posttraumatic Growth Theory II**


**Trauma and Language**


**Further Reading**


American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic criteria from DSM-IV-TR*


Cathy Caruth, ed., *Trauma: Explorations in Memory* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995)


Michael Foucault, *Folie et Déraison: Histoire de la folie à l’âge classique*, [https://monoskop.org/images/2/29/Foucault_Michel_Histoire_de_la_folie_a_l_age_classique.pdf](https://monoskop.org/images/2/29/Foucault_Michel_Histoire_de_la_folie_a_l_age_classique.pdf)


