

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:

Week	Lecture A	Lecture B
1	Overview and introduction to theories	Introduction to narratives
2	Psychoanalysis	Perec, pp. 93-120
3	The Medical Model	Perec, pp. 121-146
4	Anti-Psychiatry	Perec, pp. 147-181
5	Postcolonial Theory	Perec, pp. 183-222
6	Trauma Theory I	Agnant, pp. 7-43
7	Trauma Theory II	Agnant, pp. 45-74
8	Posttraumatic Growth Theory I	Agnant, pp. 75-115
9	Posttraumatic Growth Theory II	Agnant, pp. 117-139
10	Trauma and Language	Agnant, pp. 141-185
11	Rose	Spéciose
12	Spéciose	Conclusions and essay guidance

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

Pyschoanalysis

J. A. C. Brown, *Freud and the Post-Freudians*, (London: Penguin, 1961) pp. 1-35

The Medical Model

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

Anti-Psychiatry

Erving Goffman, *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*, (1961), pp. 117-155.

Postcolonial Theory

Frantz Fanon, *Les Damnés de la terre* (Paris: Maspero, 1968), pp. 235-303

Trauma Theory I

Cathy Caruth, *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative and History* (Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1996) (Introduction and Chapter 5)

Trauma Theory II

Steff Craps, *Postcolonial Witnessing: Trauma Out of Bounds*, (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) (Introduction and Conclusion)

Posttraumatic Growth Theory I

Lawrence G. Calhoun and Richard G. Tedeschi, *Handbook of Posttraumatic Growth: Research and Practice* (Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers, 2006), pp. 3-23.

Posttraumatic Growth Theory II

Caroline Williamson, 'Genocide, Masculinity and Posttraumatic Growth in Rwanda: Reconstructing Male Identity through *Ndi Umunyarwanda*', *Journal of Genocide Research*, Vol. 18, No. 1, (2016) 41–59

Trauma and Language

Caroline Williamson, 'Posttraumatic Growth at the International Level: The Obstructive Role Played by Translators and Editors of Rwandan Genocide Testimonies', *Translation Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 1, (2016) 33–50

Further Reading

Maria Adamowicz-Hariasz, 'Le Trauma et le témoignage dans Le Livre d'Emma de Marie-Célie Agnant', *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal in Modern Literatures*, Vol. 64, No. 3, (2010) 149–168,

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

Colette Boucher, 'Québec-Haïti. Littérature transculturelle et souffle d'oralité : une entrevue avec Marie-Célie Agnant', *Ethnologies*, Vol. 27, No. 1, (2005) 195–221

Jean Bernabé, Patrick Chamoiseau, Raphaël Confiant, *Éloge de la créolité*, (Paris: Gallimard, 1989)

Gert Buelens, Samuel Durrant and Robert Eaglestone, *The Future of Trauma Theory: Contemporary Literary and Cultural Criticism* (New York: Routledge, 2013)

Norman Buford, ed. *The Child in French and Francophone Literature* (Amsterdam; New York: Rodopi, 2004)

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

Aimé Césaire, *Discours sur le colonialisme*, (Paris: Éditions Présence Africaine, 1955)
<http://www.larevuedesressources.org/IMG/pdf/CESAIRE.pdf>

Phil Clark and Zachary Kaufman, *After Genocide: Transitional Justice, Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Rwanda and Beyond* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009)

Alexandre Dauge-Roth, *Writing and Filming the Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda: Dismembering and Remembering Traumatic History* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2010)

Laurent Duboi, *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History*, (New York: Picador, 2012)

Robert Eaglestone, *The Holocaust and the Postmodern* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008)

Robert Eaglestone and Barry Langford, *Teaching Holocaust Literature and Film* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008)

Michael Foucault, *Folie et Dérison: 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

Sigmund Freud, *Five Lectures on Psycho-Analysis* (1909)
<http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/h-freud-lectures.htm>

Édouard Glissant, *Le Discours antillais* (Paris: Gallimard, 1997)

Ian Hacking, *Rewriting the Soul: Multiple Personality and the Sciences of Memory* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998)

Jennifer Hughes, *Outline of Modern Psychiatry* (Chichester: Wiley, 1990)

Human Rights Watch/Africa, Human Rights Watch Women's Project, Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme, *Shattered Lives: Sexual Violence during the Rwandan Genocide and its Aftermath* (New York, Washington, London, Brussels: Human Rights Watch, 1996)

Ronnie Janoff-Bulman, *Shattered Assumptions: Towards a New Psychology of Trauma* (New York: The Free Press, 1992)

Stephen Joseph, *What Doesn't Kill Us: The New Psychology of Posttraumatic Growth* (London: Hachette Digital, 2011)

Carl Gustav Jung, *The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious*, (1969)

R. D. Laing, *The Politics of Experience and the Bird of Paradise* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1967)

Florence Ramond Journey and Marie-Célie Agnant, 'Entretien avec Marie-Célie Agnant', *The French Review*, Vol. 79, No. 2 (2005), 384–394

Laurent Olivier, 'L'impossible archéologie de la mémoire: à propos de *W ou le souvenir d'enfance* de Georges Perec', *European Journal of Archaeology*, Volume 3, Issue 3, 2000

Margaret Majumdar, 'Francophonie: The Caribbean dimension', in Yvette Rocheron and Christopher Rolfe, *Shifting Frontiers of France and Francophonie*, 2004, pp. 31–47

Martin Munro, ed., *Haiti Rising: Haitian History, Culture and the Earthquake of 2010*, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2010)

Michael Rothberg, *Multidirectional Memory: Remembering the Holocaust in the Age of Decolonization* (Stanford University Press, 2009)

Joanna Spiro, 'The Testimony of Fantasy in Georges Perec's *W ou le souvenir d'enfance*', *The Yale Journal of Criticism*, Vol. 14, No. 1, (2001) 115–154

Derek Summerfield, 'Cross Cultural Perspectives on the Medicalization of Human Suffering', in *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Issues and Controversies* ed. by Gerald Rosen (Chichester: John Wiley, 2004), pp. 233–247 (p. 241).

Thomas Szasz, *The Myth of Mental Illness*, (New York: Perennial, 2003)

Caroline Williamson, 'Posttraumatic Growth and Religion in Rwanda: Individual Wellbeing vs. Collective False Consciousness', *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, Vol. 17, No. 9, (2014) 946–955

Caroline Williamson, 'Towards a Theory of Collective Posttraumatic Growth in Rwanda: The Pursuit of Agency and Communion', *Traumatology*, Vol. 20, No. 2, (2014) 91–102

Williamson Sinalo, Caroline (2019) Decolonizing Trauma Therapy, in *Rwanda since 1994: Stories of Change*, ed. by Hannah Grayson and Nicki Hitchcott. Liverpool University Press

Williamson Sinalo, Caroline (2018) *Rwanda after Genocide: Gender, Identity and Posttraumatic Growth*. Cambridge University Press

Allan Young, *The Harmony of Illusions: Inventing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995)