

Prof. Georgiy Kasianov

Politics of History and International Relations (15 hours)

The course introduces the topic of use and misuse of cultural/collective memory and history in international relations in the end of the 20th – first decades of the 21st centuries. The subject presented at three levels: bilateral and multilateral relations, and transnational policies. Students will learn about the methods and strategies of instrumentalization of perceived past in international relations, diplomatic actions, memory conflicts and warfare. The course invites students to develop their analytical skills in analyzing roles and functions of the major political and mnemonic actors, examining their policies and actions, assessing outputs and outcomes.

Requirements:

Working knowledge of English, interest in the politics of history, memory studies, and international relations.

Ability to process and analyze contemporary literature on the topic, critical thinking, and interest in controversial issues.

Classwork

Reading compulsory literature PRIOR to the sessions is required. In sessions organized as interactive communication, students' active participation is highly desirable and welcomed.

Grading

Participation in the sessions – 50%

Final paper or review of the monograph – 50%

COURSE CONTENT

Session 1. Basic concepts. Memory, History and International Relations.

Memory and history: entangled opposites. Typologies of memory. Typologies of history. Political uses of history and memory. Mnemonic actors. Regimes of memory. National and transnational memory/history. Metanarrative. Presentism.

Mnemonic anxiety, national and international security. Antagonistic and agonistic memories. Securitization of the past.

Readings:

Assmann A. *Shadows of Trauma. Memory and the Politics of Postwar Identity*. Fordham University Press, 2016. Part I : 9 – 45 (hard copy available)

Berger S. with Conrad C. *The Past as History. National Identity and Historical Consciousness in Modern Europe*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2015, Chapter 6. National Histories from post-Second World War to Post-Cold War: 357 (hard copy available)

Bernhard M., Kubik J. (eds) *Twenty Years After Communism: The Politics of Memory and Commemoration*, Oxford University Press, 2014, Chapter 1 : 7 – 19.

Jarausch Konrad H., Lendenberger T., *Contours of Critical History of Contemporary Europe: A Transnational Agenda*, In: Jarausch Konrad H., Lendenberger T. *Conflicted Memories. Europeanization Contemporary Histories*, Berghann Books, 2011 : 1 – 23

Kasianov G. *Memory Crash. Politics of History in and around Ukraine, 1980-s – 2010s*. CEU Press, 2022, Chapter 1, 2, available on-line:
https://www.academia.edu/69812780/Memory_Crash_Politics_of_History_in_and_around_Ukraine_1980s_2010s

Session 2. Common past, different visions

Common or shared past: concepts and representations. Typologies of the common past. Imperial and colonial past. World wars as a shared past. Shared past in bilateral relations. Historical reconciliation as a concept and practice.

Cases: German – French relations, Polish – German relations, Ukrainian – Russian relations, Polish – Ukrainian Relations, China – Japanese relations, India – Pakistani relations.

Readings:

Kasianov G. Ukraine – Poland: Quest for the Past, *Ideology and Politics Journal*, No 2(16), 2020 : 166 – 193, available on-line:
https://www.academia.edu/44350734/Ukraine_Poland_Quest_for_the_Past

Pfeil U. Reconciliation: A Definitory Approach, In: Demesmay C., *Franco-German Relations Seen from Abroad. Post-war Reconciliation in International Perspectives*, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2021 : 9 – 22.

Session 3. Transnational and International Perspectives

National memory and master-narrative. Common European history project(s). Holocaust as a transnational memory project. Communist past as an “Eastern European” agenda. The East – West dilemma. European Parliament and memory issues. Council of Europe and transnational politics of memory.

Readings:

Aleida Assmann, “The Holocaust – A Global Memory? Extensions and Limits of a New Community,” in *Memory in a Global Age: Discourses, Practices and Trajectories*, ed. Aleida Assmann and Sebastian Conrad, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010

Kasianov G. Shared Past as a Present: Transnational European Memory as a Challenge, In: Bazhenova H. (ed) *Constructing Memory: Central and Eastern Europe in the New Geopolitical Reality*, Instytut Europy Środkowej, 2022 : 23 – 44. (hard and pdf copies available)

Pakier M., Stråth Bo. (eds) *A European Memory? Contested Histories and Politics of Remembrance*, Berghann Books, 2010, Ch. 1, 11, 15, 18, Conclusion

Zessin-Jurek L. The Rise of an East European Community of Memory? On Lobbying for the Gulag Memory via Brussels In: Pakier M., and Wawrzyniak J. (eds) *Memory and Change in Europe. Eastern Perspectives*, Berghann Books, 2015 : 131 – 149 (pdf. copy available)

Session 4. Magistra vitae? International Relations and School History

School textbook as a metanarrative. National histories nad international relations. Image of the Other. Problem of ethnocentrism. Textbook commissions and common textbook projects.

Readings:

Ferro M. *The Use and Abuse of History Or how the past is taught to children*, Routledge Classics, 2003. Chapter 7 From Christ the King to the nation-state: history in European eyes, Chapter 10, History in profile: Poland. (hardcopy available)

Kasianov G. Common Past, Different Visions: The Ukrainian-Russian Encounters Over School History Textbooks 1990s-2010s,' *Bildung und Erziehung* 75. Jg., 2022, S. 145–163, available at:

https://www.academia.edu/81569907/Common_Past_Different_Visions_The_Ukrainian-Russian_Encounters_Over_School_History_Textbooks_1990s_2010s

Pingel F., “History as a project of the future – the European history textbook debate,” in *History Education and Post-Conflict Reconciliation: Reconsidering Joint Textbook Projects*, ed. Karina V. Korostelina and Simone Lässig, with Stefan Ihrig Routledge, 2013: 155–176

Session 5. Memory as a Warfield.

Memory wars as a component of international relations. Past as a source and instrument of conflict. Past as a security concern. Memory as a casus belli: the Russian – Ukrainian Case.

Readings:

Kasianov G. How a War for the Past Becomes a War in the Present, *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 16, 1 (Winter 2015): 149–55 (available at: https://www.academia.edu/10747206/How_a_War_for_the_Past_Becomes_a_War_in_the_Present)

McGlynn J. *Memory Makers. The Politics of the Past in Putin’s Russia*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2023, Chapter 2 The Kremlin’s memory policies, Chapter 3 Past as Present. The Historical Framing of Ukraine

