An Online Course for Fall 2018 • 3 credits • Sem 202
Comparative Literature 360: Literature & Cultural Experience

EUROPEAN TRAUMAS & MEMORY CULTURES
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How are historical traumas remembered individually and collectively and commemorated in literature, film, paintings, museums and monuments? How does cultural memory accommodate new or conflicting views or accounts of the past? What kinds of ethical responsibilities do the generations ‘after’ disaster bear in this landscape? This online course examines European literature [and film] and cultures of remembrance built around the most devastating European traumas of the 20th century, including World War I, World War II, the Holocaust, and the war in former Yugoslavia. Our readings tentatively include Pat Barker’s WWI-themed novel *Regeneration*; Jacques Tardi’s WWI-themed graphic novel *It Was the War of the Trenches*; Primo Levi’s Holocaust memoir *The Drowned and the Saved*; selections from Anne Frank’s diary; Yugoslav novelist Dubravka Ugresic’s postmodern novel *The Museum of Unconditional Surrender*; a selection of films like *Life is Beautiful* and *No Man’s Land*; selected episodes of *Downton Abbey* and the French series *A French Village*; a selection of European paintings, monuments, and photographs; and essays by Sigmund Freud, Virginia Woolf. Maurice Blanchot. Viktor Frankl. Jacques Derrida. and more.

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