

L105a/ Hum105a: Topics in French Culture and Literature

Memories of the Second World War

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This class focuses on the ways World War II has been remembered in France, mainly in literary texts but also in a few documentary films, since both participate in the dissemination of images of the period. The course is divided into sections, each of which presents a different construction of events based on the memory of an identifiable group: the fascist (*Les Sept Couleurs*), the resistance fighter (*Le Silence de la mer*, *La Douleur*, *Les Armes de l'esprit*), the Holocaust victim (*La Nuit*, *Nuit et Brouillard*) and the postwar generation (*La Rive allemande de ma mémoire*, *Le Chagrin et la Pitié*).

The class will be taught in French and will be run in a seminar format. Students will email their responses to the reading. Two papers (five double spaced pages, typed) are required in L105a, three in Hum105a. Students will be allowed to rewrite their essays for a better grade. At least one of the two papers (one of three in Hum105a) will have to be in French. Grade will be based on papers (2/3), and class participation plus email comments (1/3).

Texts:

- Brasillach, *Les Sept Couleurs*.
- Vercors, *Le Silence de la mer*.
- Duras, *La Douleur*.
- Wiesel, *La Nuit*.
- Le Garrec, *La Rive allemande de ma mémoire*.

Films:

- Ophuls, *Le Chagrin et la Pitié*.
- Sauvage, *Les Armes de l'esprit*.
- Resnais, *Nuit et Brouillard*.

