

Politics of Memory in Southeast Europe (A005556)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Troch, Pieter

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

crdts

offering

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject East European Languages and Cultures)

5

A

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)

5

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)

5

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)

5

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)

5

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)

5

A

Master of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures

5

A

Master of Arts in Global Studies

5

A

Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context

5

A

Exchange Programme East European Languages and Cultures

5

A

Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies

5

A

Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences

5

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Southeast Europe, memory politics, World War II, communism, Yugoslav wars

Position of the course

This course unit examines practices of dealing with the past in contemporary societies of Southeast Europe. Students on an advanced level reflect on the political and social aspects of contemporary memory debates in Southeast Europe. Specific case studies are connected to generalising knowledge on (collective) memory and memory politics. Exchange students can take up this course unit. No knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

The course unit is structured around a number of topical and polarising memory debates in Southeast Europe. More specifically, it deals with the memory of the Second World War, communism and the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s, with a particular focus on the latter. The course unit pays attention to different voices in the debate (victims and witnesses, local and international NGO's, academics, judicial bodies, states, inter-governmental organisations) and makes use of materials from different domains of memory politics (education, official commemorations, (social) media, memorials, judiciary). The course unit relates concrete debates to generalising concepts and theories from memory studies.

Initial competences

Students should have a Bachelor's degree, but no additional knowledge is required.

English proficiency is mandatory. Knowledge of the languages of Southeast Europe

(Proposal)

is not needed. Knowledge of the social and political history of Southeast Europe is an advantage, but no requirement.

Final competences

- 1 To critically evaluate topical debates on dealing with the past in Southeast Europe.
- 2 To discern multiple voices and perspectives in ongoing memory debates in Southeast Europe.
- 3 To be aware of the political and societal impact of dealing with the past in contemporary Southeast Europe.
- 4 To creatively apply concepts and theories on collective memory to particular memory debates in Southeast Europe.
- 5 To report in a scientific manner on topical memory debates in Southeast Europe.
- 6 To present the results of research to peers.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar: Group discussions in which we analyse different voices and perspectives in memory debates and theoretical ramifications.

Peer teaching: Students analyse a topical memory debate and give a presentation on the topic in front of the class.

Independent work:

- In preparation of the topics that will be dealt with in the seminars, students analyse assigned materials (academic literature, critical journalism, policy papers).
- Students write an assignment based on critical reflections on contemporary memory debates that are discussed in the seminars and one developed casestudy. The assignment should explicitly engage in a dialogue with theoretical/conceptual research on memory politics.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Assigned academic reading

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Jensen, Jody (ed.), Memory Politics and Populism in Southeastern Europe. Routledge, 2021.

Milošević, Ana & Tamara Trošt (eds.), Europeanisation and Memory Politics in the Western Balkans. Routledge, 2021.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support through UFORA and during the seminars. Contact hour by appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

The continuous assessment consists of a presentation and a written assignment.

End-of-term assessment consists of an oral discussion of the paper

Calculation of the examination mark

- Continuous assessment: 75% (presentation: 15%; final paper: 60%).
- End-of-term assessment (oral discussion): 25%.

Passed scores for partial assignments are carried over to the second exam period.

Students who do not pass for the course unit as a whole and do not obtain a passing grade for the presentation, are required to make an additional, compensatory assignment.

Facilities for Working Students

- 1 Class attendance is recommended to successfully complete the course.
- 2 Lectures will not be recorded but sufficient online learning material will be provided.
- 3 Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment