

Professor Sheryl Kroen

Class time: Thursday 3-6PM

Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4PM

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Remote/synchronous

**EUH/WOH 4930: Un-Silencing the Past: Biography, Commemoration, and History
28371, Section VSK2; 29211, Section VSK2**

Description: Monuments to slave traders and confederate soldiers are tumbling. Universities are renaming buildings. Curators at Britain’s National Portrait Gallery are revamping its collection. Whole cities are transforming themselves into history lessons about slavery (Montgomery, Alabama) and the Holocaust (Munich, Berlin, Vienna). The title of this seminar is a play on Michel-Rolph Trouillot’s *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*, which we will read to open our seminar. If Trouillot explored the many ways in which the past is silenced, our common seminar readings and your individual research projects will examine specific efforts in recent decades by governments, scholars, activists, and artists in many media in Britain, France, Germany, and the American South to un-silence the past with regard to Colonialism, Slavery, and the Holocaust.

Course Requirements: This is a discussion-based seminar, and the assignments are designed to facilitate in-class work and independent research. All students are required to attend and participate actively in seminar. In the first part of the seminar, in addition to reading the common weekly assignments, students will write 3 (out of 5 possible) 1-2-page critical analyses of the common readings with an eye to facilitating discussion. The assignments from late February on—the abstract, the annotated bibliography, the 5- and 10-page drafts, and the oral presentation—have been designed to facilitate the writing of your final paper, a 10-15-page research paper. In the last few weeks we will have several workshops in which students share their work in progress.

Attendance policy: one unexcused absence is permitted without penalty; thereafter the “attendance” part of class participation will go down one grade per absence (from A to A-, from A- to B+, etc.). No late papers will be accepted without penalty. To excuse lateness on assignments or absences official documentation will be required.

Weekly Writings (3/5)	1/21;/1/28; 2/4;2/11; 2/18	20%
Initial abstract:	3/4	10%
Annotated Bibliography:	3/11	10%
5-page draft:	3/18	10%
10-page draft:	3/25	10%
Presentations:	4/8	10%
Final paper (10-15 pages):	4/15	30%

Required Books

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1995)

Greg Grandin, *The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom and Deception in the New World* (NY: Picador Books, 2014)

Susan Neiman, *Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil* (NY: Picador Books, 2019)

Style Manual: Strunk and White, *Elements of Style* (any edition)

Mary Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (any edition)

Policies and Expectations:

The participation portion of your grade for this class will be calculated on the basis of your attendance and your participation in class activities. Since the pedagogical approach of this course depends heavily on student engagement and interaction, you are required, at a minimum, to participate in class activities through the audio function of Zoom. Your video presence is invited as well.

Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive promptly. Students are allowed 2 absences without penalty, after which the participation grade goes down one fraction of a grade per absence. More than 6 absences will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.

Come to class prepared to discuss the texts assigned for each day. The readings provide the raw material for all discussions. The more prepared you are before class, the more you will get out of both lectures and discussions. Class participation is essential. Students can expect a respectful and open atmosphere in which to participate in discussions.

Late work will not be accepted without penalty. Please make every effort to apprise the instructor of adverse circumstances that affect your ability to attend class or complete assignments on time. Official documentation is required to excuse an absence and to schedule make-up assignments.

In writing your papers be sure to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is plagiarism. All incidents of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of students and met with sanctions (e.g failing grade for affected assignment, failing grade for the course, etc.). Please review the University's student code of conduct and conflict resolution procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

Counseling services: Phone number and contact site for university counseling services and mental health services: 392-1575, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

Week-by-Week Schedule:

Thursday, Jan. 14: Introductions

Me, you, this class

Thursday, Jan. 21: Silencing the Past

Read entire: Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Beacon Press, 1995)

Write a 1-2-page critical summary and analysis of Trouillot

Thursday, Jan. 28: Age of Freedom/Age of Slavery/Age of Capital

Read entire: Greg Grandin, *The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom and Deception in the New World* (NY: Picador Books, 2014)

Write a 1-2-page critical summary and analysis of Grandin

Feb. 4: Portraits, Monuments, Museums and the making of Nations and Empires

Common readings to be announced.

Early nineteenth century: British Museum, Berlin museum, Louvre

Late nineteenth century: Crystal Palace and Victoria and Albert Museum; Musée de l'Homme
Reichsmuseums up to Hitler; National Portrait Gallery: London (and later, the U.S.);The Mall in DC

Feb. 11: The Holocaust and Slavery

Read entire: Susan Neiman, *Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil* (NY: Picador Books, 2019)

Write a 1-2-page critical summary and analysis of Neiman

Montgomery, Alabama and Munich, Germany

Feb. 18: Un-silencing the past

Reader's choice, range of topics, to be determined with the professor

Write a 1-2-page critical summary and analysis of your chosen text/object

Feb. 25: No class

Mar. 4: Individual meetings

Abstract with brief bibliography

Mar. 11

Annotated Bibliographies due

Mar. 18

Writing workshop: 5-page drafts due

Mar. 25

Writing workshop: 10-page drafts due

Apr. 1

No class—individual meetings with professor

Apr. 8

Presentations

Apr. 15

Final Papers due in class