

## PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CLUSTER PROGRAM

### MEMORY STUDIES

Memory studies is a dynamic field of interdisciplinary inquiry for students to make critical connections between courses offered in several programs, departments, and schools at the university. This proposal seeks to launch a cluster of courses taught by professors from various departments with experience and interest in teaching about memory from different disciplinary and theoretical perspectives and situations. The cluster will appeal to undergraduates who are interested in this powerful and increasingly important center of inquiry. The courses that are proposed to be incorporated into the cluster are drawn from departments and curricula in American Studies, Anthropology, Art, Communication Studies, English and Comparative Literature, History, and Psychology. Some of the central issues that will be emphasized in this cluster include the methodological practices of oral history and autobiography; the psychology and performance of memory in traumatic recall, political witness, and legal testimony; the contested politics of commemoration and the material culture of memorials; and the dynamic ways that social remembering and forgetting are involved in construing the historical bonds of local, regional, national, and transnational belonging.

The following faculty members have agreed to be involved in the collective work:

Carole Blair, Communication Studies  
Minrose Gwin, English and Comparative Literature  
Jacqueline Hall, History  
Timothy Marr, American Studies, cluster coordinator  
Neil Mulligan, Psychology  
Chris Nelson, Anthropology  
Della Pollock, Communication Studies  
Daniel Sherman, Art  
Margaret Weiner, Anthropology

The following approved courses have been included in the proposed memory studies cluster:

ANTH 331 The Anthropology of Memory (core course), Chris Nelson  
AMST 384 Myth and History in American Memory (core course), Timothy Marr  
ANTH 375 Memory, Massacres, and Monuments in South East Asia, Margaret Weiner  
ART/ HIST/INTS 514: Monuments and Memory, Daniel Sherman  
COMM 471 Rhetorics of Public Memory, Carole Blair  
COMM 435 Memory Acts, Della Pollock  
ENGL 447 Memory and Literature, Minrose Gwin  
FOLK/HIST 670 Introduction to Oral History, Jacqueline Hall  
PSYC 430 Human Memory, Neil Mulligan