**SABANCI UNIVERSITY**

**CULT 361/561: Oral History**

**FALL 2021/ Wednesday 12.40-15.30**

Instructor: Arzu Ünal

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Teaching Assistant: İlkan Can İpekçi

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Link for Zoom Meeting

https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/s/97026304784

Passcode: herstory

Link for CULT 361/561 WhatsApp group:

https://chat.whatsapp.com/DXZW1QWAZN5K6yA8cOxX6u

**Course Outlines**

This course will introduce students to the study of oral history. Oral histories are spoken memories about the past recorded by oral historians in a dialogue with individuals providing testimony. The study of oral history allows us to examine events and experiences not recorded (or differently recorded) by written history, and to interpret their meaning in the present.

**Requirements**

Students are required to come to class and do the readings. There will be class presentations based on weekly readings and a research project. The project includes doing an oral history interview (audio recorded), creating a transcript (a text version of the interview), reflections on interviews and writing a 10-page final paper. As part of their research project, students must turn in a number of assignments by their due dates throughout the semester.

**Grading**

* Attendance, participation and presentations: 30%
* Assignment 1: Interviewee Information Form (due Oct 15): 10%
* Assignment 2: Interview Questions (due Oct 29): 10%
* Assignment 3: Interview Notes (due Nov 26): 10%
* Assignment 4: Transcript (due December 24): 10%
* Assignment 5: Final Paper (due January 5): 30%

All assignments will be submitted via Turnitin. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under any circumstances. If you are unable to submit your assignments due to serious illness, you must provide a medical certificate to the instructor. In order to succeed in this course, students need to attend class regularly, complete readings, meet assignment deadlines and be prepared to participate in class discussion.

**COURSE PLAN \*\***

**Week 1 (29 September) Course Introduction**

**Week 2 (6 October) What Makes Oral History Different?**

Lynn Abrams, *Oral History Theory* (London: Routledge, 2010), 1-33. **Presenter of the Week:** (Selçuk Mert Günyüz)

Alessandro Portelli, “What Makes Oral History Different?,” in *The Death of Luigi Trastulli and Other Stories* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1991), 45-58. **Presenter of the Week:** (Julian Vargas)

Readings for graduate students/Recommended for undergraduates

Alistair Thomson, “Four Paradigm Transformations in Oral History,” The Oral History Review 34, no: 1 (2006): 49-70.

Alexander Freund, “‘Confessing Animals’: Towards a *Longue Durée* History of the Oral History Interview,” *The Oral History Review*, 41, no: 1(2014):1-26.

**Week 3 (13 October): Oral History in Turkey**

Leyla Neyzi, “Oral History and Memory Studies in Turkey,” in *Turkey’s Engagement with Modernity: Conflict and Change in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Celia Kerslake, Kerem Öktem, Philip Robins (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), 443-459. **Presenter of the Week:** (Doğuş Aksakal)

Arzu Öztürkmen, “Remembering through Material Culture: Local Knowledge of Past Communities in a Turkish Black Sea Town.” *Middle Eastern Studies*, 39, no: 2 (2003): 179-193. **Presenter of the Week:** (Bahar Baştuğral)

Readings for graduate students/Recommended for undergraduates

Melissa Bilal and Estelle Amy de la Bretèque, “The Oror and the Lorî: Armenian and Kurdish Lullabies in present-day Istanbul,” in *Remembering the Past in Iranian Societies*, ed. Christine Allison and Philip G. Kreyenbroek (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2013), 125-139.

Marlene Schäfers, “From Shameful to Public Voice: Women Dengbêjs, the Work of Pain, and Kurdish History.” (published in Turkish in *Kürt Tarihi*, 26 (2016): 24-29).

Work on **Assignment 1: Interviewee Information Form**

**Due October 15** **by 11 p.m.** on SUcourse

**Week 4 (20 October): Self/Subjectivity & Intersubjectivity**

Lynn Abrams, *Oral History Theory* (London: Routledge, 2010), 33-78. **Presenter of the Week:** (Kaan Biçimli)

Kathryn Anderson and Dana C. Jack, “Learning to Listen: Interview Techniques and Analysis,” in *The Oral History Reader*, ed. Robert Perks and Alistair Thomson (London: Routledge, 1998), 157-171. **Presenter of the Week:** (Yağmur Filizok)

Readings for graduate students/Recommended for undergraduates

Carolyn Steedman, “Enforced Narratives: Stories of Another Self,” in *Feminism and Autobiography*, ed.Tess Coslett et. al., (New York: Routledge, 2002), 25-38.

Alessandro Portelli, “Research as an Experiment in Equality,” in *The Death of Luigi Trastulli and Other Stories* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1991), 29-45.

**Week 5 (27 October): Tensions and Decisions in Oral History**

Tracy E. K’Meyer and A. Glenn Crothers, “‘If I See Some of This in Writing, I’m Going to Shoot You’: Reluctant Narrators, Taboo Topics, and the Ethical Dilemmas of the Oral Historian,” *The Oral History Review* 34, no: 1(2007): 71-93. **Presenter of the Week:** (Kadir Karakuş)

Kathleen Blee, “Evidence, Empathy and Ethics: Lessons from Oral Histories of the Klan,” in *The Oral History Reader*, ed. Robert Perks and Alistair Thomson, (London: Routledge, 1998), 333-343. **Presenter of the Week:** (Anıl Karamahmutoğlu)

Readings for graduate students/Recommended for undergraduates

Nien Yuan Cheng, “‘Flesh and Blood Archives’: Embodying the Oral History Transcript,” *The Oral History Review* 45, no: 1 (2018): 127-142.

Work on **Assignment 2: Interview Questions**

**due October 29** **by 11 p.m.** on SUCourse

**Week 6 (3 November): Debates in Oral History**

Anna Green, “Individual Remembering and 'Collective Memory': Theoretical

Presuppositions and Contemporary Debates,” Oral History, 32:2 (Autumn, 2004): 35-44. **Presenter of the Week:** (Abigael Kervyn)

Nadia Jones-Gailani, “Qahwa and Kleiche: Drinking Coffee in Oral History

Interviews with Iraqi Women in Diaspora,” Global Food History Journal, (January 2017): http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/20549547.2017.1278347 **Presenter of the Week:** (Berkcan Külahlı)

Additional readings for graduate students/recommended for undergraduates

Michael Roper, “Slipping Out of View: Subjectivity and Emotion in Gender History,” History Workshop Journal, vol 59 (2005): 57-73.

**Week 7 (10 November): Memory**

Lynn Abrams, *Oral History Theory* (London: Routledge, 2010), 78-106.

Alessandro Portelli, “The Death of Luigi Trastulli: Memory and the Event,” in *The Death of Luigi Trastulli and Other Stories* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2001), 1-26. **Presenter of the Week:** (Doruk Teker)

Readings for graduate students/Recommended for undergraduates

Ivana Maček, “‘It Starts to Burn a Little’: Intergenerational Transmission of Memories of War in a Bosnian Family in Sweden,” *Oral History Forum d’histoire orale* 37 (2017).

Andrew Hoskins, “7/7 and Connective Memory: Interactional Trajectories of Remembering in Post-scarcity Culture,” *Memory Studies* 4, no: 3 (2011): 269-280.

**Week 8 (17 November): Narrative**

Lynn Abrams, *Oral History Theory* (London: Routledge, 2010), 106-130. **Presenter of the Week:** (Oğuzcan Özdemir)

Gabriele Rosenthal, “The Narrated Life Story: On the Interrelation Between Experience, Memory and Narration,” in *Narrative, Memory & Knowledge: Representations, Aesthetics, Contexts* (Huddersfield: University of Huddersfield, 2006), 1-16. **Presenter of the Week:** (Yağmur Filizok)

Readings for graduate students/Recommended for undergraduates

Deborah Schiffrin, “Mother/Daughter Discourse in a Holocaust Oral History: ‘Because Then You Admit That You’re Guilty’,” *Narrative Inquiry* 10, no: 1 (2000):1-44. **Presenter of the Week:** (Sophia Mauro)

Ari Gandsman, “Narrative, Human Rights, and the Reproduction of Conventional Knowledge,” *Anthropologica* 55 (2013): 1-14. **Presenter of the Week:** (Gür Piren)

**Week 9 (24 November): Performance**

Lynn Abrams, *Oral History Theory* (London: Routledge, 2010), 130-153. **Presenter of the Week:** (Camilla Lorentsen)

Steven High, “Oral History and Performance,” in *Oral History at the Crossroads* (Vancouver, B.C.: The University of British Columbia Press, 2014), 241-263. **Presenter of the Week:** (Emircan Saç)

Readings for graduate students/Recommended for undergraduates

Della Pollock, “Oral History As and In Performance,” Presentation at OHMAR Meeting, New York, 2008.

**Assignment 3: Interview Notes**

**Due Nov 26 by 11 p.m. on SUCourse**

**Discussion of interview experience, how to do presentations and transcript**

**Week 10 (1 December): Power and Empowerment:**

Lynn Abrams, *Oral History Theory* (London: Routledge, 2010), 153-175. **Presenter of the Week:** (Gür Piren)

Katherine Borland, “‘That’s Not What I Said’: Interpretive Conflict in Oral Narrative Research,” in *The Oral History Reader,* ed. Robert Perks and Alistair Thomson (London: Routledge, 1998), 320-332.

Readings for graduate students/Recommended for undergraduates

Lenore Layman, “Reticence in Oral History Interviews,” The *Oral History Review* 36, no: 2 (2009): 207-230.

**Week 11 (8 December): The Limits of Oral History?**

Erin Jessee, “The Limits of Oral History: Ethics and Methodology Amid Highly Politicized Research Settings,” *The Oral History Review* 38, no: 2 (2011): 287-307. **Presenter of the Week:** (Emircan Saç)

Antonius Robben, “Ethnographic Seduction, Transference, and Resistance in Dialogues about Terror and Violence in Argentina,” *Ethos* 24, no:1 (1996): 71-106. **Presenter of the Week:** (Camilla Lorentsen)

Readings for graduate students/Recommended for undergraduates

Monica Eileen Patterson, “The Ethical Murk of Using Testimony in Oral Historical Research in South Africa,” in *Oral History Off the Record*, ed. Anna Scheftel and Stacey Zembrzycki (New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), 201-218.

Erin Jessee, “Managing Danger in Oral History Fieldwork,” *The Oral History Review*, 44, no: 2 (2017): 322-347.

**Week 12 (15 December): Silences and Defenses**

*Neal Norrick, “Talking about Remembering and Forgetfulness in Oral History*

*Interviews,” The Oral History Review, 32:2 (Summer - Autumn, 2005): 1-20.* **Presenter of the Week:** (Sophia Mauro)

*Sandy Polishuk, “Secrets, Lies, and Misremembering: Take II,” The Oral History Review 32:2 (Summer - Autumn, 2005): 51-58 (short article – only)*

**Week 13 (22 December): Project Presentations**

**Assignment 4:** Transcript due December 24 by 11 p.m**.** on SUCourse

**Week 14 (29 December): Project Presentations (Cont.)**

**Assignment 5: Final paper due January 5 by 11 p.m.** on SUCourse

The final assignment will include a digital copy of all previous assignments, the interview audio/video, photographs and other data collected, and a brief bio and reflexive paragraph for the SU Oral History Archive.