



Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES)

Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program

September 1, 2025 — January 31, 2026

Course title:	German History in the 20th Century – Cultures of Remembrance in Germany and Japan
Date:	September 30 — October 24, 2025
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Dr. Oleg Morozov
Contact hours:	25 (incl. exam and wrap-up) + study trip to Berlin (5 days)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History and memory in Germany and Japan share many similarities. Both autocracies were allies who jointly initiated World War II and ultimately faced a severe defeat. This defeat inflicted a profound collective trauma on each nation. In the second half of the twentieth century, both countries underwent a challenging transition to democracy, during which they had to confront this trauma and overcome “a residual distrust of themselves,” as Ian Buruma aptly describes it. Throughout this process, they faced numerous challenges, including spontaneous and managed forgetting, self-victimisation, and right-wing populism.

This course introduces students to how Germans and Japanese worked through their difficult pasts from 1945 to the turn of the twenty-first century. Specifically, we will discuss the similarities and differences between German Nazism and Japanese militarism. We will also discuss how the two nations have confronted their collective guilt and commemorated their and others' victims. Additionally, we will focus on how the pursuit of a transnational memory emerged around the turn of the century, with Auschwitz and Hiroshima as its central symbols, and how public memories in both countries are now under threat from far-right populists.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Reading (tba)
1 (= 90 minutes)	Tuesday, September 30 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	Introduction to the course “History and Memory”	-
2	Tuesday, September 30 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Introduction to the course “World War II and the Holocaust”	-
3	Thursday, October 2: 10:15 – 11:45	German Nazism and Japanese Militarism compared	<i>Eco</i>
4	Tuesday, October 7 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	German culture of remembrance after 1945	-
5	Tuesday, October 7 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Empathetic memorials	-
6	Thursday, October 9 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	Online memory of the Holocaust: Challenges and Perspectives	<i>Bareither</i>
7	Thursday, October 9 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Tübingen city tour	-
	Monday, October 13 – Friday, October 17	Study Trip: Berlin (5 days) - Separate Schedule available -	
8	Tuesday, October 21 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	World War II Narratives in German and Japanese Textbooks	<i>Bode, Seunghoon</i>
9	Tuesday, October 21 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Collective guilt in Germany and Japan compared	<i>Fukuoka, Takita-Ishii</i>
10	Thursday, October 23 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	Hiroshima and the Holocaust: Towards transnational memory	<i>Zwigenberg</i>
11	Thursday, October 23 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Alternative für Deutschland and Nippon Kaigi: Far right in Germany and Japan	<i>Guthmann</i>
12	Friday, October 24 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	FINAL EXAM	-

13	Friday, October 24 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Course Wrap-up	-
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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By familiarising themselves with the forms of representing the traumatic past in Germany and Japan, students will learn how the culture of remembrance, if properly managed, can help to transform the difficult past into a useful one, foster empathy for victims and tolerance for marginalized groups, and develop civil rights and democracy. Students will understand how the modern memory landscape is changing due to social media and how one can use online resources knowledgeably to make this landscape more inclusive and diverse.

PREREQUISITES

The course does not require any special knowledge. The course is designed for undergraduate students with various academic backgrounds who are generally interested in Germany, Europe and the European Union. A very good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course and during study trips are required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Each course concludes with a written exam at the end of the program. The grade of each course will be calculated by the result of the written exam (67%) and active participation in class as well as during study trips (33%). Active participation includes: attendance, asking questions, taking part in discussions, showing interest, giving presentations.

READING (REQUIRED)

- Bareither, Christoph (2021): Difficult heritage and digital media: 'selfie culture' and emotional practices at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, in: *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 27, no. 1, pp. 1–16.
- Bode, Ingvild and Seunghoon Emilia Heo (2017): "World War II Narratives in Contemporary Germany and Japan: How University Students Understand Their Past," *International Studies Perspectives* 18, pp. 131–154.
- Bukh, Alexander (2007): Japan's History Textbooks Debate: National Identity in Narratives of Victimhood and Victimization, in: *Asian Survey* 47, no. 5, pp. 683–704.
- Buruma, Ian (1994): *The Wages of Guilt: Memories of War in Germany and Japan*. London: Atlantic Books.
- Callaghan, Mark (2013): From the murderers to the murdered: Germany's transformation of a place beset with Nazi history into a space dedicated to Jewish memory, in: *Working Paper Series No. 3 Memory, Conflict and Space*, pp. 1–13.
- Eco, Umberto (1995): Ur-Fascism, in: *The New York Review of Books*, <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/1995/06/22/ur-fascism/>.
- Fukuoka, Kazuya and Sachiko Takita-Ishii (2022): Judging the past: Memory, others, and intergenerational responsibility among the Japanese youth, in: *Memory Studies* 15, no. 4, pp. 798–826.

- Guthmann, Thierry (2024): *Nippon Kaigi: Political Nationalism in Contemporary Japan*. New York: Routledge.
- Hashimoto, Akiko (2015): *The Long Defeat: Cultural Trauma, Memory, and Identity in Japan*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Puaca, Brian M. (2011): "Teaching Trauma and Responsibility: World War II in West German History Textbooks," in: *New German Critique* 112, pp. 135-153.
- Traverso, Enzo (2019): *The New Faces of Fascism: Populism and the Far Right*. London/New York: Verso.
- Zwigenberg, Ran (2014): *Hiroshima: The Origins of Global Memory Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

Oleg Morozov holds a PhD in Russian and German history. He studied foreign languages and history at Lomonosov State University and HSE University in Moscow. He was Senior Lecturer at HSE University until 2022, teaching memory studies, public history, cultural history, and social history. Since 2015, he has been voted Best Teacher by students for six consecutive years. He has held fellowships from the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in DC, the German Historical Institute in Moscow, and the Paulsen Programme at the London School of Economics and Social Sciences. He has been a Guest Lecturer at the Russian Middlebury School and the International Christian University in Tokyo. From 2022 to 2024, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer at Tübingen University. Since October 2024, he has been working on his first doctorate in Russian queer memory at Christ's College, University of Cambridge. He is a member of the International Commission for the History of Universities, the Memory Studies Association and the International Federation for Public History. His professional interests include memory and trauma studies, public history, historical game studies, colonialism and decolonisation, history of universities, and theory of history.