Grappling with the Past in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS

In this course, we will learn about how people living in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and those belonging to German cultural communities around the globe look to the past to ask questions about politics and society today. We will work with autobiographical reflections, campaign posters, documentary film, interviews, newspaper and magazine articles, poems, political speeches, popular songs, paintings, graphic novels, and short stories to think deeply about Antisemitism, colonialism, multidirectional guilt, migration and exile, nationalism, nostalgia, populist movements, perpetration, as wells military victory and loss. You will grapple with these challenging issues by leading discussions, working with partners, holding a presentation, doing creative projects, and writing short essays. By the end of this course, you will understand the main contemporary debates on remembrance in global German cultures, and you will be able to address these issues with more sophisticated linguistic competency in German because we will dedicate part of every class period to reviewing grammar and focusing on vocabulary and usage needed to talk about memory culture and politics around the world. Taught in German.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Nora Krug, *Heimat: Ein deutsches Familienalbum* (München: Penguin, 2018). 288 S.
All other course readings will be available as downloadable PDFs on Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Attendance and Active Participation in Each Class Session = 10%
Weekly Canvas Discussion Reflections = 30%
Midterm Exam = 20%
One 1,500-Word Essay Based on Course Readings = 10%
One 1,500-Word Essay on Nora Krug's Graphic Novel *Heimat* = 10%
Two 15-Minute Presentations on Commemorative Sites = 20%