

This syllabus cannot be copied without the instructor's express consent.

## WITNESSING WAR IN LUSOPHONE CULTURES

PRT 3510

Faculty Nicola Gavioli

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### Course Description

This course is an introduction to Witness Literature in Portuguese-speaking cultures (Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique). Disruptive life-changing events such as World War II, the Holocaust and the colonial wars in Africa give shape to a powerful literature written in Portuguese by witnesses. By reading a representative corpus of essays, novels and poetry we will reflect on key concepts, challenges and dilemmas of the act of witnessing collective disasters, showing how literature can play a unique role in the preservation of memory and human experiences against the corrosion of time and oblivion. This course is designed with the purpose of illuminating crucial aspects for the formation of all global citizens: the awareness of other people's sufferings and the understanding of the universal relevance of the act of testimony in different times and nationalities. The course aims to look at the wars fought in Portuguese former colonies through the eyes of different participants: this shift of perspectives aims to enhance students' understanding of the fears and emotional wounds shared by all participants in a war.

### Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

- Become familiar with cultural representations of war in different Lusophone countries
- Become more aware about long-term consequences of war for individuals and communities
- Understand and reflect on major issues of the act of witnessing: the representation of the Holocaust and War Trauma and the ethical dilemma of testimony
- Get acquainted with Witness Literature in Portuguese through the analysis of relevant paradigmatic works
- Think critically about the representation of wars through the perspectives of different protagonists
- Develop critical skills for the interpretation of literary works and films

### Global Student Learning Outcomes

(1) Global awareness: Students will be able to describe the interrelated dynamics (e.g. language, culture, beliefs, history, psychology, art) influencing the act of witnessing war.

(2) Global perspective: Students will be able to reflect on the representation of a single traumatic event from multiple perspectives.

(3) Global engagement: Students will demonstrate a willingness to seek out information from diverse points of view concerning contemporary wars across the world.

## Method

Lecture conducted entirely in Portuguese. Most of the readings are in Portuguese (some essays are in English). Each class will consist of a presentation on the central topic followed by a discussion on the readings/videos assigned (general discussions and 'Socratic circle' discussions).

## Active Learning Strategies

Large group discussions

Socratic circles

Visit to the Holocaust Memorial in Miami and meeting/interviewing a guide

Students will conduct team-based interviews with war veterans in our community (after a methodology training)

## Course Requirements

This course is recommended for students pursuing a major or minor in Portuguese or the Brazilian Culture Studies Certificate. Advanced oral and written skills in Portuguese are a requirement.

## Grading

Regular attendance and active participation 10 %

Midterm test: 20 %

Wiki Project: a) Research on a contemporary war 20 %

b) Oral history project (with war veterans) 20 %

Final essay 30 %

### Grading Scale:

A: 100 – 95      A-: 94 – 90

B+: 89 – 87      B: 86 – 84      B-: 83 – 80

C+: 79 – 77      C: 76 – 74      C-: 73 – 70

D+: 69 – 67      D: 66 – 64      D-: 63 – 60

F: 59 and below

## Assessment

1. Students will be asked to interact in weekly class discussions on the readings assigned.
2. The Midterm will consist on a written test. Students will demonstrate to have understood the theoretical issues at stake in witness literature and to have thought on war as a life-changing traumatic event as shown in the literary works of testimony.
3. Wiki team-based project on contemporary wars (for a description of how to work with Wiki, see the lecture "Collaborative Team Learning Using Wikis" by Prof. Sarah Mahler: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/collaborative-team-learning/id436347260?i=93789262>).

For their Wiki projects, students will be responsible for: a) finding resources on a contemporary war (teams will look for multiple media/perspectives) and present the material to the class  
b) interviewing veterans in Miami and including clips of the interviews in their Wiki projects.

4. The Final will consist in an 8-page (double-spaced) essay in Portuguese according to the MLA (Modern Language Association) style. Check MLA Style guidelines at:  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

The topic of final essay must be discussed with the instructor during office hours or by appointment.

### **Assistance**

Assistance is required. Students who cannot come to class due to University sanctioned events or family-related events (funerals, marriages, etc.) must inform the professor in advance. It is extremely important to arrive in class on time. Be aware that disrupting the class with late arrivals will not be tolerated. A 10 minutes delay counts a one absence.

Missing class will be penalized each time by one percentage point. In case of an emergency (illness, hospitalization, etc.) you are required to provide a note from your doctor or another official and verifiable documentation.

Absolutely no text messaging or use of cell phones, i-pods, MP3 and other electronic devices during class. Turn them off or leave them home. The use of the computer is accepted for note-taking only.

### **Academic Misconduct (as set out in FIU policies):**

As a student of this university, you are expected:

- to be honest in your academic endeavors.
- not represent someone else's work as your own.
- not cheat, nor aid in another's cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and are punishable up to and including expulsion from the University.

Please, get better acquainted with what is considered "Academic Misconduct:

<http://www2.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm>

### **Required material**

#### *Essay*

Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved*. New York: Vintage International, 1989.

#### *Movies*

Sérgio Rezende, *Guerra de Canudos* (1997)

João Botelho, *Um Adeus Português* (1985)

Manoel de Oliveira, *Non ou a Vã Glória de Mandar* (1990)

#### *Novels*

Boris Schnaiderman, *Guerra em surdina* (Brazil)

Joseph Nichthausen, *Quero viver...Memórias de um ex-morto* (Brazil)  
António Lobo Antunes, *Os Cus de Judas* (Portugal)  
Luandino Vieira, *Nós, os do Makulusu* (Angola)

*A course reader (\*), PowerPoint presentations, handouts and other on-line material for the course will be available to students*

## **Course Schedule**

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### **Week 1: Concepts** (Witness Writing, Testimony, *autopsia*)

Philomela's Writing: A Myth on Testimony (from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*)\*

Seeing with your own eyes: Thucydides' *autopsia*\*

François Hartog, "A Testemunha e o Historiador"\*

Ivan Teixeira, "A Tróia de barro" (on-line)

*A Retirada da Laguna* by Alfredo Taunay (excerpt)\*

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### **Week 2: Canudos**

Euclides da Cunha: *Os Sertões* (excerpts)\*

*Guerra de Canudos*, by Sérgio Rezende (movie)

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### **Week 3: Brazilian literature and World War II (1)**

Walter Benjamin, "O narrador"\*

Catharine Brosman, "The Functions of War Literature" (on-line)

Rubem Braga, some *Crônicas de Guerra*\*

Boris Schnaiderman, *Guerra em surdina* (novel)

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### **Week 4: Brazilian literature and World War II (2)**

Boris Schnaiderman, *Guerra em surdina* (novel)

Ernest Hemingway, "Soldier's Home" (short story)\*

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### **Week 5: Primo Levi: the Ethics of Testimony**

Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (essay)

Jaime Ginzburg, "Literatura brasileira após Auschwitz"\*

João Guimarães Rosa, "O Mau Humor de Wotan" (short story)\*

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### Week 6: **Brazilian Narratives of the Shoah (1)**

Márcio Seligmann-Silva, "Literatura da Shoah no Brasil" (on-line)

*Quero viver...Memórias de um ex-morto* by Joseph Nichthausen (novel)

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### Week 7: **Brazilian Narratives of the Shoah (2)**

*Quero viver...Memórias de um ex-morto* by Joseph Nichthausen (novel)

Adorno, "Educação após Auschwitz"\*

**MIDTERM: Written test**

→ *Guided Visit to the Holocaust Memorial of Miami*

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### Week 8: **Portuguese Narratives of the African Colonial Wars**

Introduction to Wiki projects: Watch video of the lecture "Collaborative Team Learning Using Wikis" by Prof. Sarah Mahler: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/collaborative-team-learning/id436347260?i=93789262>)

Watch TED Talk Watch TED Talk by Ethan Zuckerman ('Listening to Global Voices'):  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/ethan\\_zuckerman.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/ethan_zuckerman.html)

Website Global Voices: <http://globalvoicesonline.org>

Rui de Azevedo Teixeira, "Orgulho, culpa e nostalgia" (on-line)

Paulo Filipe Monteiro, "Whispers, Bullets and Absent Presences: Africa in Portuguese Cinema" (on-line)

*Um Adeus Português* by João Botelho (movie)

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### Week 7: **António Lobo Antunes (1)**

Roberto Vecchi, "Barbárie e representação: o silêncio da testemunha"\*

António Lobo Antunes, *Os Cus de Judas* (novel)

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### Week 8: **António Lobo Antunes (2)**

António Lobo Antunes, *Os Cus de Judas* (novel)

António Lobo Antunes, some *crônicas*\*

Roberto Vecchi, "Das relíquias às ruínas. Fantasmas imperiais nas criptas literárias da Guerra Colonial" \*

Manoel de Oliveira, *Non ou a Vã Glória de Mandar* (movie) and discussion

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### Week 9: **War Veterans in our Community**

- Oral History: How to conduct an interview (Invited speaker TBA)
- Meeting War Veterans in our Community

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### Week 10: **Portuguese Women Writers and Colonial War**

Margarida Calafate Ribeiro, "África no feminino: As mulheres portuguesas e a Guerra Colonial" (on-line)

Lídia Jorge, *A Costa dos Murmúrios* (excerpts)\*

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### Week 11: **Poetry of Colonial War**

Margarita Calafate Ribeiro, Roberto Vecchi. "Era um barco cheio: Guerra Colonial e memória poética: uma antologia possível" (on-line)

"Poesia da guerra colonial" (*Website*)

**Wiki Project: Group Presentations on Contemporary Wars**

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### Week 12: **Writings by Lusophone African Authors (1)**

Agostinho Neto, poems from *Sagrada Esperança*\*

José Craveirinha, poems\*

Luis Bernardo Honwana, "As mãos dos pretos" (short story)\*

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### Week 13: **Writings by Lusophone African Authors (2)**

Luandino Vieira, *Nós, os do Makuluso* (novel)

Interview with Luandino Vieira (on-line)

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### Week 14: **Writings by Lusophone African Authors (3)**

Luandino Vieira, *Nós, os do Makuluso* (novel)

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### Week 15: **Writings by Lusophone African Authors (4)**

Luandino Vieira, *Nós, os do Makuluso* (novel)

Watch video of the lecture "Narrative, Memory and Ruins" by Prof. Jaime Ginzburg:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB8doI54j1c&feature=plcp>

**Wiki Project: Group Presentations on Oral History Project**

Conclusions

## FINAL Essay

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### Interesting Websites:

Global Learning for Global Citizenship (FIU): <http://goglobal.fiu.edu/Pages/index.aspx>

I-Tunes U – FIU: Global Learning Conference videos: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/global-learning-conference/id436347260>

Global Voices: <http://globalvoicesonline.org>

Ethan Zuckerman 'Listening to Global Voices' (TED Talk):  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/ethan\\_zuckerman.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/ethan_zuckerman.html)

Filhos da guerra colonial:  
<http://www.ces.uc.pt/projectos/filhosdaguerracolonial/pages/intro.php>

Projeto temático escritas da violência: <http://www.iel.unicamp.br/projetos/escritas/>

Núcleo de Estudo de Guerra e Literatura – NEGUE (UFMG):  
<http://www.letras.ufmg.br/nucleos/negue/index.asp?file=index>

Professor Márcio Seligmann-Silva's website: <http://marcioseligmann.com.br/>

Costs of War: <http://costsofwar.org/article/who-we-are>

Torture and the Future: Perspectives from the Humanities:  
<http://www.complit.ucsb.edu/projects/tortureandthefuture/index.html>

Emergency USA: <http://www.emergencyusa.org>

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