This course examines how contested legacies of genocide, global violent conflict and 9/11 continue to pose an urgent challenge for today’s politics of memory. We will discuss various approaches to an effective or failed coming to terms with an injurious and difficult past (e.g., the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide) by analyzing museums, sites of memory and artwork. We will discuss how race, ethnicity and gender have informed policies of genocide and how various politics of memory have dealt with such injurious histories (from denial to apology). We will examine media concerned with witnessing (e.g., film, photography, comics) and ask how modes of witnessing have changed in the digital age. We will also discuss how recently emerged new media have contributed to human rights discourses, paying close attention to the important role of counter-memory in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Taught in English. 4 s.h. option available for students who wish to apply the course to their requirements for the major or minor in German.

Approved for the International Studies European studies track and Human Rights track