

Unit Two – Social Sciences: Cultural Memory Comparison Paper

As we discovered in Unit One, memory is an important factor in the way that we as individuals relate to our own past. Additionally, memory has an important social function. Collective, or cultural memory, as defined by Ann Rigney (2005), is a social construct that has important consequences for the way we conceptualize historical events and for our relations to those around us. No longer viewed as a naturalized phenomena, we now think of cultural memory as the product of “mediation, textualization, and acts of communication” (Rigney p. 14).

Readings:

Leavy, P (2005). The memory-history-popular culture nexus: Pearl Harbor as a case study in consumer-driven memory. *Sociological Research Online* 10(1).

Rigney, R (2005). Plenitude, scarcity, and the circulation of cultural memory. *Journal of European Studies*, 35(1), 11-28.

Three outside sources on the topic of the cultural event being documented. These should be obtained through your independent research.

The Assignment:

1. Identify a “site of memory” (Rigney p.18) that in some way attempts to capture or represent a cultural event
2. Using the concepts in Rigney and/or Leavy, compare this “site of memory” to your research on the actual cultural event. It is not enough to point out similarities and differences, you must analyze the impact and possible reasons behind them.

Requirements:

- 4 – 6 pages, double-spaced, Times font, 1-inch margins all the way around.
- Paraphrasing or quotation of at least two separate outside resources. At least one of these sources must be from your independent research.. The “site of memory” does not count toward the two-source minimum.
- APA-style in-text citations and references list.
- All work submitted on time in an electronic portfolio.

Timeline and Due Dates:

- Tue, May 15 – Topic proposal due in course wiki before class begins
- Thu, May 17 – Three source evaluations due in course wiki before class begins; bring copy of topic proposal to class.
- Sun, May 20 – Full-length draft due in course wiki by 11:59 pm
- Mon, May 21 – Online peer review due in course wiki by 11:59 pm
- Wed, May 23- Polished draft due in course wiki by 11:59 pm

Grading Breakdown (25 points possible)

- Preparatory Activities = 3 points possible
- Polished Draft = 22 points possible (see grading rubric on the course website)

See the Unit One assignment sheet for guidelines on the full-length draft and electronic portfolio.

Source Evaluations: Complete the source evaluation worksheet on the course website (located in the “Tools” section) for each of your three outside sources.