



What Do We Remember?

Identities, Memories and Central European History

UWEC Summer SoTL Grant

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Project Goals and Design

The goal of this project was to transform the course HIST 325 "History and Memory in Central Europe" from an on-line, three-week course into a full-semester honors course that aligned with the newly-adopted Liberal Education global and integrated learning outcomes and rubrics. The new course would include interdisciplinary perspectives on memory studies and a broader global comparative component exploring the impact of memories of Central Europe for ethnic communities in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The project was inspired by Teresa Sanislo's experience leading the CETS program, teaching other global and integrated learning courses, and piloting the new LE rubrics. John Lanska took HIST 325 in the winter prior to the project. Lanska is an honors student whose expertise spans the sciences, humanities, and the arts (music). The collaborative element of the project allowed us to consider the course redesign from both the faculty and honors student perspective.

Methods and Outcomes

This summer we discussed the rationale of the LE outcomes and rubrics and conducted bibliographic and on-line research to locate a range of books, journal articles, videos, on memory studies and web materials on ethnic associations and memory sites in Wisconsin.



Figure 1: Eric Kandel, one of the leading researchers in the field of biological memory.

Of the articles and books that discussed the biology or psychology of memory, priority was given to books and articles written by leading experts in the field of memory research.

A key consideration was that content be accessible to non-science majors. Resources were sought that discussed the significance of several famous classical composers and their influence on the cultural memory of Central European ethnic groups.

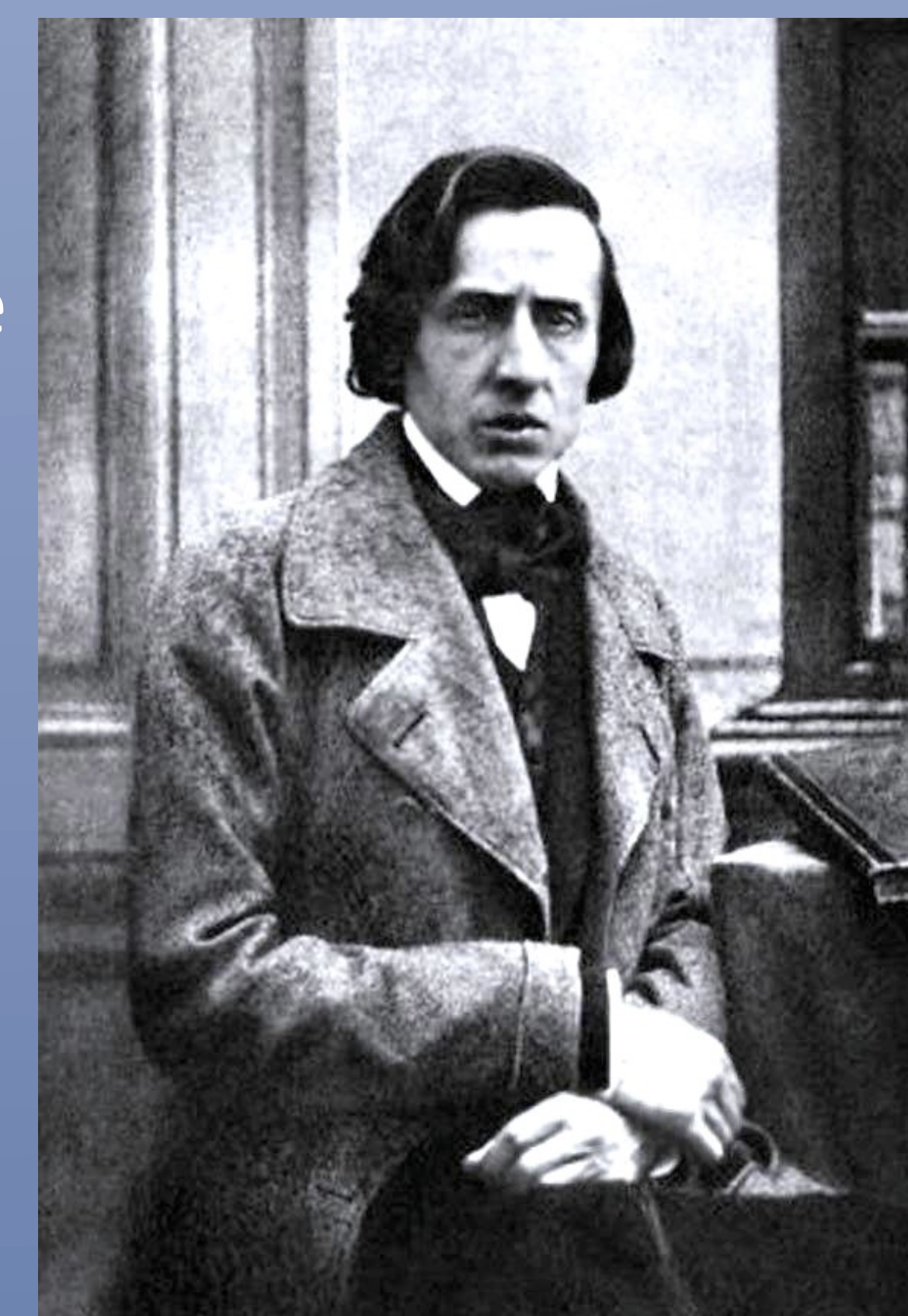


Figure 2: Frédéric Chopin, a classical composer regarded as a cultural icon in Poland.



Figure 3: Pictured above is Ehrlich Weiss, stage name Harry Houdini. Weiss' father was a rabbi. In Appleton, the History Museum at the Castle has a large exhibit celebrating Houdini's legacy.

We developed a bibliography of resources to expand the interdisciplinary perspectives offered in the course and add a transnational unit on Central European immigration history.

Follow-up work this spring produced video-taped interviews (to be streamed for the course) of a range of faculty discussing how their discipline approaches memory studies. Sanislo plans to teach the new honors course and assess student work using the new R2 and IL rubrics when staffing permits. Insights from this research project were already used for the fall-semester non-honors section of this course.



Figure 4: Basilica of St. Stanislaus Kostka in Winona, MN. It is one of many Polish churches in the Midwest.

Bibliography

Books:

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Kandel, Eric. *In Search of Memory*. New York, New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2006. Print.

Kandel, Eric, and Squire, Larry. *Memory: From Mind to Molecules*. Greenwood Village, Colorado: Roberts and Company Publishers, 2008. Print.

Schacter, Daniel. *The Seven Sins of Memory: How the Mind Forgets and Remembers*. New York, New York: Houghton Mifflin. 2001. Print.

Szabolcsi, Bence. *A Concise History of Hungarian Music*. Corvina Press. 1955. Online.

Wearing, Deborah. *Forever Today*. London: Corgi Books. 2006. Print.

Articles:

Halsall, Paul. *Modern History Sourcebook: Music and Nationalism*. Fordham University. 1998. Web. July, 2014.

Schacter, Daniel. "The Seven Sins of Memory: How the Mind Forgets and Remembers." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. 1001. 2003: 226 – 239. Web. June 2014.

Videos on Demand Database:

Ted Talks: Joshua Foer – Feats of Memory Anyone Can Do
Things You Need to Know About Brains
Unforgettable Memories
How Does Your Memory Work?

Acknowledgments

The project was funded with a UWEC summer SoTL grant designed to help further curricular reform for the new LE. Additional Funding provided by UWEC History Department. Support was also provided by Dr. Vahlbusch from the UWEC Honors Department.



Figure 4: Deborah Wearing's book, *Forever Today*, details her personal struggle with her husband's devastating memory loss.