This senior/graduate seminar is an exploration in the anthropological approaches to the study of history, memory, and silence: the silences of the empty archives, the ruptured oral historical accounts, and the fragments of debris and ruins. Anchored on Benjamin’s concept of history we ask: How do we trace and represent the past in the aftermath of violence and destruction? What is the role of historians and anthropologists as storytellers who are perpetually struggling with the politics of representation?

**Prof. Hakem Al-Rustom**

**Winter 2018 — Tuesdays 1-4PM**