



HIST 693P: History and Memory

Instructor: Prof. Joshua Arthurs

Location: Woodburn 105, Tues. 4:00-6:50 PM

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Course Description:

This course explores the politics of commemoration and historical representation. Across a wide variety of geographic and temporal contexts, we will explore the following questions: how do the recovery and representation of the past shape and reflect national, transnational, local and individual identities? How do historical institutions and practices – from monuments and excavations to archives and museums – interact with their political, social and cultural contexts? What does it mean to “use” or “abuse” the past? We will examine these questions across case studies including the politics of excavation in Israel/Palestine; World War One memorials; and the problem of the Nazi past in postwar Germany. Students are especially encouraged to explore the themes of the course in relation to their own research.

Assignments:

Research Project (40%): In consultation with the instructor, each student will choose a particular case study – e.g. a monument, museum exhibit, archive, etc. – to research and analyze using the concepts of the course. The final product will be a 15- to 20-page paper, drawing on both primary and secondary sources. Students are encouraged to choose a topic that relates to their own program of study. A proposal (approx. 2-3 pages) and preliminary bibliography are due at midterm.

Online reading responses (30%): By **NOON every Monday**, students must post at least **three substantive comments and/or questions** about each week’s readings on eCampus. These should engage critically and thoughtfully with key concepts from the texts. You are also encouraged to interact with your colleagues online by responding to their posts; this will boost your weekly grade.

Article presentation (10%): Each student will be required to lead discussion of an assigned article. This will involve an approximately 10-minute presentation to frame the reading and coordination of our conversation.

Attendance and participation (20%): Attendance is required. You should also be sure to come to class on time, prepared, with the readings in hand, and ready to contribute in a constructive fashion to our discussion. If you will be missing class due to illness etc., please email me ahead of time.

Readings:

The following books should be purchased. Other readings, indicated by an asterisk (*), are available on eCampus.

- Elazar Barkan, *The Guilt of Nations: Restitution and Negotiating Historical Injustices* (Johns Hopkins UP, 2001).
- John R. Gillis, ed., *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity* (Princeton University Press, 1996).
- Brian Ladd, *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*.
- Sanford Levinson, *Written in Stone: Public Monuments in Changing Societies*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1998.
- Andrew McClellan, *Inventing the Louvre: Art, Politics, and the Origins of the Modern Museum in Eighteenth-Century Paris*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.
- Jeffrey Olick, Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, and Daniel Levy, eds. *The Collective Memory Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. 978-0195337426
- Luisa Passerini, *Fascism in Popular Memory: The Cultural Experience of the Turin Working Class*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1987.
- Katherine Verdery, *The Political Lives of Dead Bodies: Reburial and Postsocialist Change*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.
- Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Course Expectations:

Assignments: The papers must be submitted in **HARD COPY** and stapled – not sent via email. They should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in 12-point font. Late papers will be deducted half a grade level (e.g. A to A-, B+ to B) for every day that they are late, beginning at the time at which they are due. No extensions will be given.

Communication: I will often communicate with the class via your WVU email account (MIX). Please be sure to check it regularly. Email is also the best way to contact me. When emailing, please ensure that you are polite and professional; an unpunctuated Blackberry message with no salutation will not be answered. I will work hard to get back to you in a timely manner.

Courtesy during Class: It is disruptive to others to arrive late to class or leave early. Please don't do it. If you know that you will have to leave class early, explain the situation to me beforehand and sit near the door so that you can exit as quietly as possible. Please turn off all cell phones, beepers, or any other wireless device that may make noise during class. I will confiscate your device if it rings in class. You may use a

laptop in class for taking notes, but if you are using it for email, instant-messaging, or any other activity I will ask you to stop using your computer.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely. At a minimum, **offenders will fail the course**. Plagiarism means “submitting, without appropriate acknowledgement, a report, notebook, speech, outline, theme, thesis, dissertation, or other written, visual, or oral material that has been copied in whole or in part from the work of others, whether such source is published or not, including (but not limited to) another individual’s academic composition, compilation, or other product, or commercially prepared paper” (WVU Undergraduate Catalog, 2003-2005, p. 47). Plagiarism includes not only lifting passages word for word without using quotation marks (even if you cite the author!), but also the substantial use of anyone else’s ideas without citing them. **Using material from the World Wide Web without citing it is plagiarism.** Your work is made stronger, not weaker, by showing that you are able to refer to the work of others and comment upon it critically. Whenever you use material word for word, you must use quotation marks and cite the proper author.

WVU Social Justice Statement: West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

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***Add week on psychology? Trauma? More individual memory? Less organized around different kinds of sites and disciplines? Education/school books?
Something more on heritage industry, economics of memory?
Generations, post-memory? E.g. Bergerson?
False memory?

Schedule

Jan. 14: Introduction to Memory Studies

- Jeffrey K. Olick, Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi and Daniel Levy, “Introduction” (Reader).***Drop?
- *Chris Westbury and Daniel C. Dennett, “Mining the Past to Construct the Future: Memory and Belief as Forms of Knowledge.” In *Memory, Brain, Belief*, edited by Daniel L. Schacter and Elaine Scarry, 11-32. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.
- Maurice Halbwachs, from *The Collective Memory* (Reader).
- Peter Burke, from “History as Social Memory” (Reader).
- Allan Megill, from “History, Memory, Identity” (Reader).

Jan. 21: History, Memory and Modernity

- E.E. Evans-Pritchard, from *The Nuer* (Reader).
- Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, from *Zakhor* (Reader).***Drop or have an entire week on religious memory.
- *Pierre Nora, “Between Memory and History: *Les Lieux De Mémoire*.” *Representations* 26 (1989): 7–24.
- David Lowenthal, “Identity, Heritage, and History” in Gillis, ed., *Commemorations*. ***Not great – other lowenthal?
- Richard Handler, “Is ‘Identity’ a Useful Cross-Cultural Concept?” in Gillis, ed., *Commemorations*.

Jan 28: Imagining Communities, Inventing Traditions

- Ernest Renan, from “What is a Nation?” (Reader).
- *Benedict Anderson, from *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, 1991, 1-7, 163-185 or to 206?
- Eric Hobsbawm, from “Introduction: Inventing Traditions” (Reader).***and/or his chapter on inventing traditions in *Invention of Tradition*.
- Anthony Smith, from *The Ethnic Origins of Nations* (Reader).
- Yael Zerubavel, “The Historic, the Legendary, and the Incredible: Invented Tradition and Collective Memory in Israel” in Gillis, ed., *Commemorations*.

Feb. 4: History on Display: Museums and Exhibitions

- Andrew MacLellan, *Inventing the Louvre*.
- *Richard H. Kohn, “History and the Culture Wars: The Case of the Smithsonian Institution’s Enola Gay Exhibition.” *Journal of American History* 82.3 (1995), 1036-1063.

Feb. 11: Individual Meetings and Research

Feb. 18: The Politics of Archaeology

- *Bruce Trigger, “Alternative Archaeologies: Nationalist, Colonialist, Imperialist.” *Man* 19.3 (1984), 355-370.
- *Bettina Arnold, “The Past as Propaganda: Totalitarian Archaeology in Nazi Germany.” *Antiquity* 64 (1990), 464-78.
- *Henrika Kuklick, “Contested Monuments: The Politics of Archaeology in Southern Africa.” In *Colonial Situations: Essays on the Contextualization of Ethnographic Knowledge*, edited by George W. Jr. Stocking, 135–169, 1991.
- *Nadia Abu El-Haj, “Translating Truths: Nationalism, the Practice of Archaeology, and the Remaking of Past and Present in Contemporary Jerusalem.” *American Ethnologist* 25.2 (1998), 166-188.
- *Jane Kramer, “The Petition: Israel, Palestine and a Tenure Battle at Barnard.” *The New Yorker*, (April 14, 2008).

Feb. 25: Cities, Architecture and the Environment

- Brian Ladd, *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*.
- *Robert Bevan, “Cultural Cleansing: Who Remembers the Armenians?” in Robert Bevan, *The Destruction of Memory: Architecture at War*. London: Reaktion Books, 2006, 25-60.

- *Terence Ranger, “Whose Heritage? The Case of Matobo National Park.” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 15.2 (1989), 217-249.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE

March 4: Mourning the Dead

- Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*.
- Daniel J. Sherman, “Art, Commerce, and the Production of Memory in France after World War I.” in Gillis, ed., *Commemorations*.
- *Marita Sturken, “The Wall, the Screen, and the Image: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial.” *Representations*, no. 35 (1991): 118–142.

SPRING BREAK

March 18: Monuments and Contested Memories

- Sanford Levinson, *Written in Stone: Public Monuments in Changing Societies*.
- *Robert Musil, “Monuments.” In *Selected Writings*, edited by Burton Pike, 320–323. New York: Continuum, 1986.
- *Albert Grundlingh, “A Cultural Conundrum? Old Monuments and New Regimes: The Voortrekker Monument as Symbol of Afrikaner Power in a Postapartheid South Africa.” In *Contested Histories in Public Space: Memory, Race, and Nation*, edited by Daniel J. Walkowitz and Lisa Maya Knauer, 157-177. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009.

March 25: Life Stories and Popular Memory

- Luisa Passerini, *Fascism in Popular Memory*.
- Alon Confino, from “Collective Memory and Cultural History: Problems of Method” (Reader).
- Harald Welzer et al., from *Opa War Kein Nazi* (Reader).

April 1: Ethical Memories? Guilt and Restitution

- Elazar Barkan, *The Guilt of Nations: Restitution and Negotiating Historical Injustices*.
- Michel-Rolph Trouillot, from “Abortive Rituals: Historical Apologies in the Global Era” (Reader).
- Mark Osiel, from *Mass Atrocity, Collective Memory, and the Law* (Reader).
- Avishai Margalit, from *The Ethics of Memory* (Reader).

April 8: Transitions and Memory Wars

- Katherine Verdery, *The Political Lives of Dead Bodies*.
- *Dan Stone, “Memory Wars in the ‘New Europe’.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Modern European History*, edited by Dan Stone, 714–731. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Charles Maier, from “A Surfeit of Memory?” (Reader)

April 15: The Future of the Past? Memory in the Media Age

- John B. Thomson, from “Tradition and Self in a Mediated World” (Reader).
- Daniel Dayan and Elihu Katz, from *Media Events: The Live Broadcasting of History* (Reader).

- Andreas Huyssen, from “Present Pasts: Media, Politics, Amnesia” (Reader).
- Svetlana Boym, from “Nostalgia and its Discontents” (Reader).
- Discussion of the September 11 Digital Archive (911digitalarchive.org).

April 22: Research, Writing and Optional Meetings

FINAL PAPER DUE BY NOON ON APRIL 28TH