

The University of Western Ontario
Department of History
2021-2022

History 9809A - Social Memory

This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

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Michaelmas Term
Thursday 9:30 - 12:30AM
Lawson Hall 2270C

This research course is an introduction to the phenomenon of social memory in various modern societies. It will address such matters as the commemoration of historical events and the meanings conferred on them, conflicts over different versions of history, the construction of collective identities around historical events, and the influence of historical events on modern nationalisms. In each case, there will be an attempt to understand the continuing impact of the past on the present. The seminar readings will be divided into themes, with each week's readings examining a different case study of the theme.

Texts:

Students are not required to purchase texts for this course. All readings are available on the course website.

Assignments:

Essay proposal (due 21 October)	20%
Major research essay (due date varies)	60%
Participation / Presentation	20%

Major Research Essay: Students will write a major research paper (based on significant work in primary materials) on a topic of their choice, to be arrived at in consultation with the instructor. In selecting an essay topic, you should be as imaginative and innovative as possible while bearing in mind the availability of relevant primary sources and the soundness of the topic in a theoretical sense. The final draft of the paper should be roughly 25 pages in length and must be presented in proper scholarly format.

A research paper proposal, consisting of a number of tentative research questions, a discussion of the main primary sources to be used, and a list of representative secondary sources, must be submitted on 21 October. Your proposal must also indicate the date on which you intend to submit your paper (16 December 2021 at the latest). Given that you have selected your own due date, it is assumed that you will be able to meet that deadline. For that reason, extensions will not be given without academic accommodation from the appropriate office.

Participation / Presentation: The success of the seminar depends on the willingness of students to keep up with the readings on a weekly basis and to take part fully in the discussion. Your participation will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the term. In addition, each student will make a short presentation on an aspect of the week's reading (of no more than 10 minutes – time limits will be enforced). The precise topic will be given to you the week before your presentation. You should sign up on the sheet on my office door for the week of your choice.

Seminar Schedule

9 September - Introduction

16 September - How Societies Remember

John Bodnar, *Remaking America: Public Memory, Commemoration, and Patriotism in the Twentieth Century* (1992): 13-20

Peter Burke, 'History as Social Memory' in Thomas Butler, ed., *Memory: History, Culture and the Mind* (1989): 97-113

Michael Kammen, *Mystic Chords of Memory: The Transformation of Tradition in American Culture* (1991): 3-14

Malcolm Chase and Christopher Shaw, eds., *The Imagined Past: History and Nostalgia* (1989): 1-32

Raphael Samuel and Paul Thompson, eds., *The Myths We Live By* (1990): 1-22

MEMORY AND THE MARKETPLACE

23 September - The *Titanic*

Steven Biel, *Down With the Old Canoe: A Cultural History of the Titanic Disaster* (1996): part II

John Wilson Foster, 'Imagining the Titanic' in Eve Patten, ed., *Returning to Ourselves: Second Volume of Papers from the John Hewitt International Summer School* (1995): 325-43

James Guimond, 'The *Titanic* and the Commodification of Catastrophe' in Peter Gray and Kendrick Oliver, eds., *The Memory of Catastrophe* (2004): 79-90

Pete Hodson, 'Titanic Struggle: Memory, Heritage and Shipyard Deindustrialization in Belfast,' *History Workshop Journal* 87 (2019): 224-49

Andrew Wells, 'Sinking Feelings: Representing and Resisting the *Titanic* Disaster in Britain, 1914-ca 1960,' *Journal of British Studies* 52 (2013)

30 September - Heritage Tourism

Irene Furlong, 'Excavating the Emerald Isle: The Use of the Past in Irish Tourism' in Terence Dooley, ed., *Ireland's Polemical Past* (2010): 160-75

Liam Coakley, '"Sea, Sail, Steam and Emigration": The Imagining of a Heritage Tourist Town in the Republic of Ireland,' *Geography* 92/1 (2007)

Richard Handler and Eric Gable, *The New History in an Old Museum: Creating the Past at Colonial Williamsburg* (1997): ch. 2 & 9

Laura Hodsdon, '"I expected ... something": Imagination, Legend, and History in TripAdvisor Reviews of Tintagel Castle,' *Journal of Heritage Tourism* 15/4 (2020): 410-23

J. Geraint Jenkins, *Getting Yesterday Right: Interpreting the Heritage of Wales* (1992): ch. 1

7 October - Touring the Third Reich

Mats Burström and Bernhard Gelderblom, 'Dealing with Difficult Heritage: The Case of Bückeberg, site of the Third Reich Harvest Festival,' *Journal of Social Archaeology* 11/3 (2011): 266-82

Rudy Koshar, *Germany's Transient Pasts: Preservation and National Memory in the Twentieth Century* (1998): ch. 6

Brian Ladd, *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape* (1997): ch. 4

John Lennon and Malcolm Foley, *Dark Tourism: The Attraction of Death and Disaster* (2000): ch. 3 & 4

Sharon Macdonald, *Difficult Heritage: Negotiating the Nazi Past in Nuremberg and Beyond* (2009): ch. 7

Colin Philpott, 'Relics of the Reich: Dark Tourism and Nazi Sites in Germany,' *Worldwide Hospitality and Tourism Themes* 9/2 (2017): 132-45

CONSTRUCTING IDENTITY

14 October - Gunfighter Nation

Dydia deLyser, "'Thus I salute the Kentucky Daisey's claim': Gender, Social Memory and the Mythic West at a Proposed Oklahoma Monument,' *Cultural Geographies* 15 (2008): 63-94

David Hamilton Murdoch, *The American West: The Invention of a Myth* (2001): ch. 6 & 7

Randy Roberts and James S. Olson, *A Line in the Sand: The Alamo in Blood and Memory* (2001): ch. 8 & 9

Richard Slotkin, *The Fatal Environment: The Myth of the Frontier in the Age of Industrialization, 1800-1890* (1985): ch. 1 & 2

Richard Slotkin, *Gunfighter Nation: The Myth of the Frontier in Twentieth-Century America* (1992): ch.2

21 October – Scottishness ** essay outline due **

Andrew Blaikie, 'Imagining the Face of a Nation: Scotland, Modernity, and the Places of Memory,' *Memory Studies* 4 (2011): 416-31

Amy Clarke, 'Should old acquaintance be forgot?: The Uses of History in Scottish Nationalist Politics,' *Australian Journal of Politics and History* 66/3 (2020): 396-414

John R. Gold and Margaret M. Gold, "'The Graves of the Gallant Highlanders': Memory, Interpretation and Narratives of Culloden,' *History and Memory* 19/1 (2007): 5-38

Laurence Gouriévidis, 'Representing the Disputed Past of Northern Scotland,' *History and Memory* 12/2 (2000): 122-41

David McCrone, Angela Morris, and Richard Kiely, *Scotland – The Brand: The Making of Scottish Heritage* (1995): 73-109

Hugh Trevor-Roper, 'The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland' in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition* (1983): 15-41

28 October – Canada's National TV Narrative

Darren Bryant and Penney Clark, 'Historical Empathy and *Canada: A People's History*,'

- Canadian Journal of Education* 29/4 (2006): 1039-63
- Lyle Dick, 'Saving the Nation through National History: The Case of *Canada: A People's History*,' in Nicole Neatby and Peter Hodgins, eds., *Settling and Unsettling Memories: Essays in Canadian Public History* (2012): 188-214
- Joe Friesen, '*Canada: A People's History* as "Journalist's" History,' *History Workshop Journal* 56 (2003): 185-203
- Darrell Varga, 'The Image of the "People" in the CBC's *Canada: A People's History*,' in Darrell Varga and Malek Khouri, *Working on Screen: Representations of the Working Class in Canadian Cinema* (2006): 73-91

4 November – Reading week – no seminar

WAR AND MEMORY

11 November - The World Wars

- Rafiq Ahmad and Anne Hertzog, 'Itineraries of the Great War and the Rise of the Local on the Western Front: Memory, Commemoration and the Shifting Regimes of Remembrance Tourism,' *Memory Studies* 13/6 (2020): 1168-82
- Teresa Iacobelli, 'A Participants' History?: The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Manipulation of Oral History,' *Oral History Review* 38/2 (2011): 331-48
- Keith Robbins, 'Commemorating the Second World War in Britain: Problems of Definition,' *History Teacher* 29/2 (1996): 155-62
- Jonathan F. Vance, *Death So Noble: Memory, Meaning, and the First World War* (1997): 202-25

18 November - Pearl Harbor and 9/11

- Mick Broderick and Mark Gibson, 'Mourning, Monomyth and Memorabilia: Consumer Logics of Collecting 9/11,' in Dana Heller, ed., *The Selling of 9/11: How a National Tragedy Became a Commodity* (2005): 200-20
- Ross Poole, 'Performing Trauma: Commemorating 9/11 in Downtown Manhattan,' *Memory Studies* 13/4 (2020): 452-69
- Emily S. Rosenberg, *A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor in American Memory* (2003): part II
- Marita Sturken, 'The Objects that Lived: The 9/11 Museum and Material Transformation,' *Memory Studies* 9/1 (2016): 13-26
- Geoffrey M. White, 'National Subjects: September 11 and Pearl Harbor,' *American Ethnologist* 31/3 (2004): 293-310

25 November - Vietnam

- Erica S. Allen-Kim, 'Exile on the Commercial Strip: Vietnam War Memorials in Little Saigon and the Politics of Commemoration,' *Buildings & Landscapes* 21 (2014): 31-56
- Albert Boime, *The Unveiling of the National Icons: A Plea for Patriotic Iconoclasm in a Nationalist Era* (1998): epilogue
- Meredith Lair, 'The Education Center at The Wall and the Rewriting of History,' *Public Historian* 34/1 (2012)
- Fred Turner, *Echoes of Combat: Trauma, Memory, and the Vietnam War* (2001): ch. 8
- Jerry Lembcke, *The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory and the Legacy of Vietnam* (1998): ch. 9

‘Vietnam Veterans Memorial,’ *National Geographic* 167/5 (May 1985): 552-73

2 December - Bad War / Good Warrior?

Gary Baines, ‘”South Africa’s Vietnam”?: Literary History and Cultural Memory of the Border War,’ *South African Historical Journal* 49 (2003): 172-192

Gary Baines and Gemma Barkhuizen, ‘South African Defence Force Veterans’ Modes of Remembering and the Ethics of Post-Apartheid Nostalgia,’ *Memory Studies* 13/4 (2020): 662-76

Daniel Clayton, ‘They were soldiers, just like us,’ *War, Literature and the Arts* 25 (2013): 1-27

Ako Inuzuka and Thomas Fuchs, ‘Memories of Japanese Militarism: The Yasukuni Shrine as a Commemorative Site,’ *Journal of International Communication* 20 (2014): 21-41