

History 1977S

Fall 2012

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Office Hours: 1:00-2:30 or by appointment

American Monuments and Memorials: From Slavery to September 11

Course Description: This course is organized around the theme of public memorials in the United States. We will begin our survey with the question of what exactly is a monument. From there, we will investigate the role monuments and memorials play in societies and examine the politics of memorialization. Throughout, we will broaden our conception of monuments to not only stone statues but paintings, abstract sculpture, fiction, film and other memorial forms. As such, we will analyze formal commemorations such as war memorials, museums, and national parks as well as popular culture commemorations in music, movies, art and on the web. The course will focus on examples of American monuments, including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Oklahoma City memorial, the United States Holocaust Museum, memorials to the Civil War and 9/11 as well as the proposed slavery memorial on the Brown campus.

Course Goals and Objectives: To better understand the dynamic nature of creating meaning—both in the past and present—from American monuments. Students will learn to read historical sources critically, appreciating the connection between the past and present, myth and truth. The course is structured around questions of historical debate. Students will engage with all the complexities of the past. Through course discussion and assignments students will begin to construct historical arguments and become more effective and skilled writers. Students are expected to complete all course readings and contribute to class discussion. Film screenings and viewings of local memorials will supplement our seminar experience. Taking advantage of our location, we will utilize Providence and the Brown campus as a vital class resource through fieldtrips and field reports.

READINGS:

The following books are recommended for purchase:

Thomas J. Brown, *Public Art of Civil War Commemoration: A Brief History with Documents*

Erika Doss, *Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America*

Kristin Hass, *Carried to the Wall*

Polly Welts Kaufman and Katharine T. Corbett, ed., *Her Past Around Us: Interpreting Sites for Women's History*

Sanford Levinson, *Written in Stone: Public Monuments in Changing Societies*

Edward T. Linenthal, *The Unfinished Bombing: Oklahoma City in American Memory*

Paul A. Shackel, ed. *Myth, Memory, and the Making of the American Landscape*

REQUIREMENTS:

Discussion Participation --- 25%

Reading Response --- 10 %

Field Report and Presentation --- 30%

Monument Project Proposal, Paper and Presentation --- 35%

Class Discussion

A successful seminar depends upon YOUR active engagement in class discussion. So come to class having done the assigned readings and bring comments, queries and opinions on the reading and the larger themes and issues invoked.

Reading Response

For every class there is assigned reading, please deliver a one page reading response and a question for discussion in my mailbox by noon on the day of class.

Field Reports

To enhance class discussion, students are required to sign up to present a field report on a national or local monument. Students should prepare a 10 minute presentation to share with the class and hand in a 4-6 page essay. Students should give a visual description of the monument, tell its biography (how it came in to being) and discuss the monument's reception and how it might have changed over time. Finally, offer some insight into the question of the memorial's relevance today. Your essays will be graded for content as well as grammar and style. Footnotes OR endnotes AND bibliography required.

Monument Project: You will write a final research paper designed to explore an aspect of American memorials. Projects will be presented to the class in the last session of the semester and should be 10 minutes each. Papers should be between 12-15 pages (15-20 pages for graduate students). **A 2-3 page proposal for your project is due October 1.** The proposal should present your overarching topic, in the form of a historical question (s) and your initial thoughts on what your thesis statement might be. It should include an annotated bibliography of your sources which should be listed alphabetically by the last names of the authors, with primary and secondary sources listed separately. The assignment is to respond to a historical question that you pose from the list provided below:

Option 1): Review essay. Choose a historical event, social movement, cultural movement, historical figure or issue and examine how he/she/it has been memorialized.

Option 2): Design your own virtual memorial. Then contextualize your monument within the history of memorialization.

Option 3): Design a "site of conscience." Frame a historical site or memorial with a current social issue then compare your proposed site with similar memorials. See:

<http://www.sitesofconscience.org>

A strong essay will have a thesis statement or argument and present evidence for your argument, taken from at least 8-10 relevant sources (including secondary sources such as books and articles written by scholars) AND primary sources (including letters, diaries, newspaper and magazine articles, autobiographies, novels, poetry, art, photographs, films, televisions and radio shows, music, memorials or material culture). Papers should be typed and double-spaced with standard margins and font. Your essays will be graded for content as well as grammar and style. Footnotes OR endnotes AND bibliography

required. For information on writing a history paper:

www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Writing_Center/resources_writers/article_lodewick.html

For information on citation of written sources:

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

Week 1 (September 10): Introduction

In-class film: Public Memory: A Film About American Memorials (2004)

In-class activity: planning the 400th Anniversary of Plymouth Rock in 2020

Week 2 (September 17): Monuments in a Changing Society

In-class film: selected scenes from Disgraced Monuments (1996)

- Sanford Levinson, *Written in Stone*
- Patricia Limerick, "The Battlefield of History" *New York Times*, August 28, 1997 and response: "Little Bighorn Sealed Fate of American Indians," *New York Times*, September 3, 1997

Field Reports: Martin Luther King Memorial, Washington D.C.

Roger Williams National Memorial, Providence, Rhode Island

Week 3 (September 24): The Politics of Memory

In-class film: selected scenes from Monumental (2012)

- Charlene Mires, "In the Shadow of Independence Hall: Vernacular Activities and the Meanings of Historic Places," *The Public Historian*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Spring, 1999), pp. 49-64.
- Scott A. Sandage, "A Marble House Divided: The Lincoln Memorial, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Politics of Memory, 1939-1963," *Journal of American History*, Vol. 80, No. 1. (Jun., 1993), pp. 135-167.
- Christopher Capozzola, "A Very American Epidemic: Memory Politics and Identity Politics in the AIDS Memorial Quilt, 1985-1993," *Radical History Review* - Issue 82, Winter 2002, pp. 91-109.
- Stephanie E. Yuhl, "Sculpted Radicals: The Problem of Sacco and Vanzetti in Boston's Public Memory," *The Public Historian*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (Spring 2010) (pp. 9-30).
- Web: <http://www.sitesofconscience.org>

Field Report: Gay Liberation Monument, New York City, NY

The Liberty Bell, Philadelphia, PA

Week 4 (October 1): The Civil War in the Historical Landscape

*****Paper Proposal Due**

- Thomas J. Brown, *Public Art of Civil War Commemoration: A Brief History with Documents* (selections TBA)
- Paul Shackel, "The Robert Gould Shaw Memorial: Redefining the Role of the Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry in *Myth, Memory, and the Making of the American Landscape*, edited by Paul A. Shackel (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2001), 141-158.

- Laurie Burgess, “Buried in the Rose Garden: Levels of Meaning at Arlington National Cemetery and the Robert E. Lee Memorial,” in *Myth, Memory, and the Making of the American Landscape*, 159- 173.
 - Kirk Savage, “President Obama and the Confederacy,” *Washington Post*, May 23, 2009
 - Sheryl Gay Stolberg, “‘They Answered a Call,’ Obama Says of Veterans,” *New York Times*, May 25, 2009
 - Web: <http://www.nga.gov/feature/shaw/home.htm>
- Field Reports: Freedman’s Memorial to Abraham Lincoln, Washington D.C.
Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA

***NO CLASS MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, FALL HOLIDAY

Week 5 (October 15): Memorializing Slavery at Brown

GUEST SPEAKER: TBA

- Report of Commission on Memorials - Brown University, March 2009, available at http://brown.edu/Research/Slavery_Justice/documents/memorials.pdf
- Brown University press release, “Martin Puryear to design slavery memorial,” <http://news.brown.edu/pressreleases/2012/02/puryear>
- Elizabeth Koh, “Slavery memorial designer chosen,” *The Brown Daily Herald*, February 16, 2012
- Edward Rothstein, “Emancipating History,” *New York Times*, Mar 12, 2011
- Edward Rothstein, “A Burial Ground And Its Dead Are Given Life,” *New York Times*, Feb 26, 2010
- Meg Sullivan, “Historian brings George Washington’s slaves into national spotlight,” *UCLA Today*, February 3, 2011
<http://www.ushistory.org/presidentshouse/news/ucla020311.htm>
- Nathaniel Lee, “Slavery Memorial marks first anniversary,” *Philadelphia Tribune*, December 16, 2011
<http://www.ushistory.org/presidentshouse/news/pt121611.htm>

Week 6 (October 22): Remember the Ladies

In-class activity: planning the Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment in 2020

Listen to selection of *Democracy Now!* on memorial controversy

- Polly Welts Kaufman and Katharine T. Corbett, ed., *Her Past Around Us* (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8)
- Johnson, Joan Marie “‘Ye Gave Them a Stone’: African American Women's Clubs, the Frederick Douglass Home, and the Black Mammy Monument” *Journal of Women’s History*, Vol 17, Num 1, 2005, pp. 62-86.
- Courtney Workman, “The Woman Movement: Memorial to Women’s Rights Leaders and the Perceived Images of the Women’s Movement” in *Myth, Memory, and the Making of the American Landscape*, 47-66.
- Lynn Sherr and Jurate Kazickas, *Susan B. Anthony Slept Here: A Guide to American Women’s Landmarks* (New York: Times Books, 1994), pp. vii- x and 397- 403 (introduction and chapter on Rhode Island Landmarks).

- Carolyn Dougherty, "Women's erasure from Women's Memorials," *The F-Word*, June 16, 2011, http://www.thefword.org.uk/features/2011/06/womens_erasure_monuments

Field Report: Women Memorial, Boston, MA

Women's Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls, NY

Week 7 (October 29): Sites of Shame

In-class films: History and Memory: For Akiko and Takashige (1991) 32 minutes and Selections from Paper Clips (2006)

- Erika Doss, *Memorial Mania*, chapter 5
- James E. Young, "The Counter-Monument: Memory against Itself in Germany Today," *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Winter, 1992), pp. 267-296.
- Edward Linenthal, "The Boundaries of Memory, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum," *American Quarterly* 46 (1994): 406-433.
- Janice Dubel, "Remembering a Japanese-American Concentration Camp at Manzanar National Historic Site" in *Myth, Memory, and the Making of the American Landscape*, 85-102.
- Gail Brown, "Wounded Knee: The Conflict of Interpretation" in *Myth, Memory, and the Making of the American Landscape*, 103-115.
- Kirk Savage, "On the Mall, Heroes, Victims, Violence" *Washington Post*, June 14, 2009 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/12/AR2009061202684.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>
- Web: <http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/exhibit>

Field Report: Holocaust Memorial, Boston, MA

Luminous Manuscript, Center for Jewish History, New York City, NY

Week 8 (November 5): Local History

Walking Tour of Providence War Memorials, location TBA

Week 9 (November 12): War Memorials

In-class film: selected scenes from Maya Lin: A Strong, Clear Vision (1994)

Song: "And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda"

Story: Eve Bunting, *The Wall*

- Kristin Hass, *Carried to the Wall*
- Erika Doss, *Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America*, chapter 4
- Andrew M. Shanken, "Planning Memory: Living Memorials in the United States during World War II," *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 84, No. 1 (Mar., 2002), pp. 130-147.
- Tom Carhart, "Insulting Vietnam Vets," *New York Times*, October 24, 1981
- "How to Remember Vietnam," *New York Times*, November 11, 1981
- Web: <http://www.thevirtualwall.org>

Field Report: Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial), Arlington, VA

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington, VA

Week 10 (November 19): Modern Tragedy & Public Memory

- Edward T. Linenthal, "Introduction: April 19, 1995" and "'We Come Here to Remember': Creating the Memorial in Oklahoma City" in *The Unfinished*

Bombing: Oklahoma City in American Memory. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 1-13 and 175-230.

- Erika Doss, *Memorial Mania*, Chapters 2 and 3
- Glenn Collins and David W. Dunlap, "The 9/11 Memorial: How Pluribus Became Unum," *New York Times*, January 19, 2004
- Tina Susman and Geraldine Baum, "9/11, Ten Years After The Nation Remembers," *Los Angeles Times*, September 12, 2011
- Eric Gibson, "9/11: A Memorial We Want to Love," *Wall Street Journal*, September 15, 2011
- Patricia Cohen, "At Museum on 9/11, Talking Through an Identity Crisis," *New York Times*, June 2, 2012
- Web: <http://www.911memorial.org/>

Field Reports: Flight 93 Memorial, Shanksville, PA
Columbine Memorial, Littleton, CO

Week 11 (November 26):

Not Your Mother's Monument: Old Ideas in New Memorial Form

In-class film: *The Last Conquistador* (2008)

Krzysztof Wodiczko: *Projections* (1991)

- Erika Doss, *Memorial Mania* (intro, chapter 1 and chapter 6)
- Sarah J. Purcell, "Commemoration, Public Art, and the Changing Meaning of the Bunker Hill Monument," *The Public Historian*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (Spring 2003), pp. 55-71.
- Robert J. Kruse II, "Imagining Strawberry Fields as a Place of Pilgrimage," *Area*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Jun., 2003), pp. 154-162.
- Joseph DeLappe, David Simpson, "Virtual Commemoration: The Iraqi Memorial Project," *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 37, No. 4 (Summer 2011), pp. 615-626.
- Kirk Savage, "What Will Our Iraq War Memorial Look Like," *Washington Post*, May 27, 2011
- Amy Harmon, "Real Solace in a Virtual World: Memorials Take Root on the Web," *New York Times*, September 11, 2002
- Janet Kornblum, "Mourners pay respects to websites of the dead; MySpace pages give solace to bereaved," *USA TODAY*, May 11, 2006
- Fernanda Santos, "A Virtual Memorial Tells Soldiers' Stories," *New York Times*, June 11, 2006
- Kirk Savage, "Temporary monuments," <http://www.kirksavage.pitt.edu/?p=79>
- Web: <http://iraqimemorial.org/>

Field Report: Texas A&M University Bonfire Memorial, San Antonio, TX

Burnham Pavilion by Zaha Hadid, Chicago, Illinois

Week 12 (December 3): LAST DAY OF CLASS

Monument Presentations

FINAL PAPERS DUE!