ADVANCED PROFESSIONALIZATION SEMINAR

ARTH 600, Fall 2020, Wednesdays, 11:35-2:25 EST
Professor Cecily Hilsdale (cecily.hilsdale@mcgill.ca)

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION
This seminar is designed to build and refine the primary critical skills of the discipline—both practical and theoretical—and also to broaden students’ critical approaches to art historical study. The first four sessions of the term are devoted to the art of compelling visual analysis, strategies for framing arguments, as well as grant writing.

In part two of the seminar we reflect on our current moment, specifically one of the most charged symbolic responses to racial injustice emerging across the globe: the maiming and toppling of monuments and other markers involving histories of racial conflict. These core sessions are devoted to a series of contested sites and monuments, including Holocaust memorials, Ground Zero, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, confederate and indigenous monuments, and even the James McGill statue on campus. We will consider such monuments and sites in conjunction with a set of readings on the nature of public monuments, collective memory and historicity, as well as recent advocacy and position papers issued by professional academic organizations such as the Society of Architectural Historians in response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

MODE OF DELIVERY
At the time of this syllabus draft, there are four different time zones for the students registered for the seminar: four students share the Montreal time zone (EST); two are three hours earlier; one is one hour earlier; one is six hours ahead; and two students are twelve hours ahead.

In order to accommodate students in these very different time zones, the seminar will be taught mostly asynchronously. We will, however, aim to meet synchronously for the first few and the final two sessions; if these synchronous meetings prove too challenging, alternative asynchronous options will be devised.

For most of Parts I and III of the semester—that is, the first five weeks and the last two weeks of the term—we will aim to meet synchronously via Zoom starting at our regularly scheduled time slot on Wednesdays, at 11:35 am EST. For these sessions you should prepare the learning activities and readings listed in the syllabus in advance of our meeting, which will last between 45 min to 2 hours, depending on the activities scheduled for the week.

For Part II of the term—that is, weeks six to eleven—we will adopt the traditional graduate seminar format of student-led discussion but it will be adjusted to a remote asynchronous schedule in light of the various different time zones. For each week during this part of the seminar, students will take turns as discussion leaders (in groups of 3 or 4), which entails meeting by zoom with me and posting relevant content by noon EST on Wednesdays (a power-point or other format presentation as well as discussion questions). The other members of the
seminar will participate in the discussion with posts to the online discussion forum within a 24-hour window of the initial posts—that is, by Thursday at noon. More detailed guidelines and expectations will be outlined in the course syllabus and will be discussed in the initial synchronous sessions to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

Note that the format outlined here for Part II is negotiable: if there is broad consensus that a synchronous conversation via zoom is preferable, we can revise accordingly. At a few key moments in the term, I will set up anonymous polls for your feedback.

Platforms:
All class content, assignments, and activities will be housed on MyCourses. Students are expected to use this platform as a “home base” for the seminar. Zoom video conference app will be used for synchronous class sessions and for office hour appointments with students.

Important Resources:
McGill Student Wellness Hub: https://www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub/
McGill Office for Student with Disabilities: https://www.mcgill.ca/osd/
McGill Teaching and Learning Services: https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/students
McGill Library Services: https://www.mcgill.ca/library/
HathiTrust Emergency Service: https://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/hathitrust
Temporary Open and Free Resources: https://www.mcgill.ca/library/covid-19-open-resources