GEOG 420 / POLI 432:
Memory, Place, and Power
Winter 2018

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday: 1:35 – 2:25 p.m.
RPHYS 118

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and by appointment
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This interdisciplinary class explores the relationships among memory, place, and political power. The course begins with an introduction to classical, Enlightenment, and contemporary texts on memory and place-making. It then uses this foundation to examine the symbolic transformation of public space, in particular the construction, alteration, and destruction of monuments, memorials, and museums in North America and in post-communist states. This approach emphasizes the social quality of memory, exploring the ways in which political interests, economic resources, and social practices can shape something as ostensibly personal and individual as memory.

We will not enforce Law 62 in our classroom, and will do our utmost to prevent anyone else from enforcing it. All students who have come to learn are welcome.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly discussion questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weeks 2-7, 9-11, and 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weeks 2-7, 9-11, and 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>TBD – Final Exam Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You must submit both essays and take the final exam to get a passing grade in this class. Information on university and Geography department policies concerning student assessment can be found at the following website: www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control (e.g., flu pandemic, sharknado, etc.), the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Readings
Most readings will be available on myCourses, in compliance with copyright regulations. We have also hyperlinked journal articles and web sources on the syllabus below - just click and download. If you are off campus, be sure to activate your VPN first.
Weekly Discussion Questions
We will post discussion questions for each week on our myCourses site, beginning with Week 2. Please choose ONE of these questions each week to answer in written form, and submit your short, thoughtful response via the Assignments link on myCourses. To receive credit, responses must be a minimum of 200 words long and must answer the question with explicit reference to that week's reading(s). No footnote or bibliography needed for this - just be sure that you knowledgeably discuss at least one reading in your answer. Responses are due by noon each Wednesday, and late responses will not be accepted under any circumstances. You can miss one week without penalty - save this freebie for when you get sick, when your computer crashes at 11:50am on a Wednesday, etc. We will post everyone’s responses anonymously on our myCourses page under “Weekly Questions.” The responses themselves are not graded – you get 10% of your grade just for writing them. There will be 11 opportunities to submit responses (each Wednesday on Weeks 2-7, 9-11, and 13). If you submit 10 or 11 full-credit responses, you will receive an A for this part of the course; nine responses earn an A-, eight earn a B+, and so on and so forth.

Conference Participation
Your TA and conference leader will be the incomparable Chris Erl (christopher.erl@mail.mcgill.ca), a doctoral student in Geography. Please register for a conference time on Minerva as soon as possible. Conferences will begin during Week 3 and attendance is mandatory (conferences will replace the Thursday lectures starting that week). Your conference grade will be based on the quality of your participation in group discussions. Please complete all of the readings for the week before coming to conference.

Short Essays
These essays will each be thoughtful responses to questions that we will pose to you at least two weeks in advance of the deadlines; you will have a choice of questions to answer. They must be 5-7 pages long, double-spaced, in 12-point font, stapled, with reasonable margins and a complete bibliography.

They are due the Thursdays of Weeks 8 (March 1) and 13 (April 3) and must be submitted electronically via myCourses by 12 noon on the due date. Late essays – judged by the time of submission on myCourses - will lose half a grade per day (e.g., a B+ essay becomes a B if it is submitted late on the first day, a B- if it is submitted the next day, etc.).

Final Examination
The comprehensive final examination will be given on the university-selected date during the regular exam period. The exam will consist of short-answer essay questions closely based on the weekly questions. You should refer to the weekly questions and your collective answers to them when preparing for the exam.
Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>&gt;3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.51-3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.16-3.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.86-3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.51-2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.16-2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.86-2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0-1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>&lt;1.0</td>
</tr>
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This course uses the standard 4.0 system for grading. An A on an assignment is worth 4 points, an A- is worth 3.7 points, etc. To calculate your final grade, we will first multiply the grade points you have earned on each assignment by the relative weight of that assignment (e.g., 0.2 for each essay), and then add the scores together to get your final grade-point average. That average will determine your final letter grade for the course (refer the grade range column). For example, if your overall grade-point average is a 3.4, you would earn a B+ in the course.

The following two statements are required by University policy:

Language
Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté.

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Academic Integrity
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

Copyright
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Schedule of Classes

Week 1

January 8: Introduction

January 9: Memory in Classical Thought


January 11: Social Memory


Week 2 - Weekly Questions start this week

January 15: Place, Memory, and Modernity


January 16 and 18: Monuments and Memory


Week 3 - Conferences start this week

January 22: Political Power and Collective Memory


January 23: Museums and Memory


Week 4 - No conferences this week (special guest lecture)

January 29: Counter-monuments and the Holocaust


January 30: New Cities: The Architecture of Power

Guest lecturer: Prof. Sarah Moser, Department of Geography, McGill University


February 1: Russian Memory Politics in the (East) European Context

Guest lecturer: Professor Viacheslav Morozov, Professor of EU–Russia Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia

Week 5

February 5: Confederate Symbolism in the Contemporary U.S.


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February 6: U.S. Civil Rights Memorials


Week 6

February 12: The Politics of Indigenous Memory in North America


February 13: A Tale of Two Museums


Canadian Museum of History:
Canadian Museum of History plans revealed, CBC News
Canadian Museum of History Research Strategy
How Stephen Harper is Rewriting History, Maclean’s
The new Canadian Museum of History: Whose history will it tell?, Globe & Mail
Canada’s wrinkle in time: Museum puts new twist on national history, G&M
The Canadian Museum of History seeks a new narrative, Globe & Mail

Week 7

February 19: Canadian War Memorials


February 20: Remembering Vimy Ridge


Week 8 - Essay #1 due March 1 at Noon, no Weekly Questions or conferences this week

Feb 26: Monumental Montreal


Feb 27: Women and Commemoration


--------Winter Break--------

Week 9

March 12: The Politics of Post-Communist Memory


March 13: Post-Communist Iconoclasm and Transitional Justice


Week 10

March 19: Soviet-Era Monuments in Russia


March 20: The World War Two Memory Wars


Week 11

March 26: The Politics of Memory in Hungary


March 27: Post-Communist Nostalgia and Aspiration

Week 12 - Essay #2 due April 5 at Noon; No conference or Weekly Questions

April 3: Memory and Forgetting


Week 13

April 9: Maya Lin and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial I

In-class film: Maya Lin: A Strong, Clear Vision [start]


April 10: Maya Lin and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial II

In-class film: Maya Lin: A Strong, Clear Vision [conclusion]

Week 14

April 16: Can We Remember Forever?


