

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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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

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

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

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>	<i>Grade Range</i>
A	4.0	>3.85
A-	3.7	3.51-3.85
B+	3.3	3.16-3.50
B	3.0	2.86-3.15
B-	2.7	2.51-2.85
C+	2.3	2.16-2.50
C	2.0	1.86-2.15
D	1.0	1.0-1.85
F	0.0	<1.0

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

© Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1

January 8: Introduction

January 9: Memory in Classical Thought

Plato, *Phaedo*, trans. By G. M. A. Grube. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company: paragraphs 70-85 inclusive (pp. 18-36).

Aristotle. 2000. *On Memory and Reminiscence*. J. I. Beare (trans.).

January 11: Social Memory

Misztal, Barbara A. 2003. "[Durkheim on Collective Memory](#)" *Journal of Classical Sociology* 3(2): 123-143.

Week 2 - Weekly Questions start this week

January 15: Place, Memory, and Modernity

Nora, Pierre. "[Between memory and history: Les lieux de mémoire.](#)" *Representations* 26 (1989): 7-24. [La version française est "Entre mémoire et histoire" (1984).]

Porter- Szücs, Brian. 2016. "[Historians and the Politics of Memory.](#)" December 12.

January 16 and 18: Monuments and Memory

Harvey, David. 1979. "[Monument and myth.](#)" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 69 (3): 362-381.

Marshall, D. 2004. "[Making sense of remembrance.](#)" *Social & Cultural Geography* 5 (1): 37-54.

Week 3 - Conferences start this week

January 22: Political Power and Collective Memory

Lebow, Richard Ned. 2008. "[The Future of Memory.](#)" *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (Vol. 617, May, 2008): 25-41.

Dembinska, Magdalena. 2010. "[Building Trust: Managing Common Past and Symbolic Public Spaces in Divided Societies.](#)" *Ethnopolitics* 9(3-4): 311-332.

January 23: Museums and Memory

Bennett, Tony. 1988. "[The exhibitionary complex.](#)" *New Formations* 4: 73-102.

Gardner, James. 2004. "[Contested terrain: History, museums, and the public,](#)" *The Public Historian* 26(4): 11-21.

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

January 29: Counter-monuments and the Holocaust

Young, J.E. 1999. "[Memory and counter-memory: The end of the monument in Germany.](#)" *Harvard Design Magazine* 9: 1-10.

Apel, L. 2014. "[Stumbling blocks in Germany.](#)" *Rethinking History* 18(2): 181-194.

Stevens, Q., Franck, K.A. and Fazakerley, R., 2012. "[Counter-monuments: the anti-monumental and the dialogic.](#)" *The Journal of Architecture* 17(6): 951-972.

January 30: New Cities: The Architecture of Power

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

Koch, Natalie. 2015. "[The violence of spectacle: Statist schemes to green the desert and constructing Astana and Ashgabat as urban oases.](#)" *Social & Cultural Geography* 16(6): 675-697.

Moser, Sarah. 2017. "Malay(sian) National Identity in Contemporary Urban Mega-Projects." In Hagen, Joshua, and Diener, Alexander (Eds.) *Urban Space, Place, and National Identity*. Rowman & Littlefield.

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.

Webster, G. R., and J. I. Leib. 2016. "[Religion, Murder, and the Confederate Battle Flag in South Carolina.](#)" *Southeastern Geographer* 56 (1), 29-37.

Staples, B. 2015. "[Confederate Memorials as Instruments of Racial Terror,](#)" *New York Times*, July 24.

February 6: U.S. Civil Rights Memorials

Dwyer, O. J. 2002. "[Location, politics, and the production of civil rights memorial landscapes.](#)" *Urban Geography* 23 (1), 31-56.

Leib, J. I. 2002. "[Separate times, shared spaces: Arthur Ashe, Monument Avenue and the politics of Richmond, Virginia's symbolic landscape.](#)" *cultural geographies*, 9, 286-312.

Week 6

February 12: The Politics of Indigenous Memory in North America

Barnes, J. 2008. "[The struggle to control the past: Commemoration, memory, and the Bear River massacre of 1863.](#)" *Public Historian* 30 (1): 81-104.

Freeman, V. 2010. "['Toronto Has No History!' Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism, and Historical Memory in Canada's Largest City.](#)" *Urban History Review-Revue D Histoire Urbaine* 38 (2): 21-35.

February 13: A Tale of Two Museums

Lehrer, E., 2015. "[Thinking through the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.](#)" *American Quarterly*, 67(4), pp.1195-1216.

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

Davidson, Tonya. 2016. "[Imperial nostalgia, social ghosts, and Canada's National War Memorial.](#)" *Space and Culture*. 19 (2): pp. 177-191.

Szpunar, Piotr M. 2010. "[Monuments, mundanity and memory: Altering 'place' and 'space' at the National War Memorial \(Canada\)](#)" *Memory Studies* 3: pp. 379-394.

February 20: Remembering Vimy Ridge

Hucker, Jacqueline. 2009. "["Battle and Burial": Recapturing the Cultural Meaning of Canada's National Memorial on Vimy Ridge](#)". *The Public Historian*. 31 (1): 89-109.

Everett-Green, Robert. (2017). "["Vimy Ridge: Birthplace of a nation – or of a Canadian myth?"](#)" *Globe and Mail*. November 13.

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

Feb 26: Monumental Montreal

Gordon, A. 2014. Contested Terrain, Contiguous Territory, in *Making Public Pasts: The Contested Terrain of Montreal's Public Memories, 1891-1930*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press: pp. 116-141.

Scott, Marian. 2017. "["Black Rock memorial park: Montreal's Irish community feels betrayed."](#)" *Montreal Gazette* May 25.

Feb 27: Women and Commemoration

Heffernan, Michael & Carol Medlicot. 2002. "["A Feminine Atlas? Sacagewea, the Suffragettes and the Commemorative Landscape in the American West, 1904-1910,"](#)" *Gender, Place & Culture* 9(2): 109-131.

-----**Winter Break**-----

Week 9

March 12: The Politics of Post-Communist Memory

Kubik, Jan and Michael Bernhard. 2014. "["A Theory of the Politics of Memory,"](#)" in Bernhard and Kubik, eds, *Twenty Years after Communism: The Politics of Memory and Commemoration* (Oxford: Oxford University Press): pp. 7-34.

Forest, B. and Johnson, J., 2011. "["Monumental politics: regime type and public memory in post-communist states."](#)" *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 27(3), pp. 269-288.

March 13: Post-Communist Iconoclasm and Transitional Justice

Light, D. and Young, C. 2015. "[Public Memory, Commemoration, and Transitional Justice: Reconfiguring the Past in Public Space](#)." In Nedelsky and Stan, ed., *Post-Communist Transitional Justice: Lessons from Twenty-Five Years of Experience*. Cambridge University Press.

Hatherly, Owen. 2016. "[Concrete clickbait: next time you share a spomenik photo, think about what it means](#)." *The Calvert Journal*, November 16.

Week 10

March 19: Soviet-Era Monuments in Russia

Forest, B. & J. Johnson. 2002. "[Unraveling the threads of history: Soviet-era monuments and post-Soviet national identity in Moscow](#)." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 92, 524-547.

March 20: The World War Two Memory Wars

Siddi, Marco. 2017. "[The Ukraine crisis and European memory politics of the Second World War](#)." *European Politics and Society*, 18(4): 465-479

Brüggemann, K. and Kasekamp, A., 2008. "[The politics of history and the "War of Monuments" in Estonia](#)." *Nationalities papers*, 36(3): 425-448.

Kurilla, Ivan. 2015. "[World War II in European Memory](#)," *Russia in Global Affairs* 3.

Week 11

March 26: The Politics of Memory in Hungary

deTar, Matthew. 2015. "[National Identity After Communism: Hungary's Statue Park](#)." *Advances in the History of Rhetoric* 18: S135-S152

Eröss, Ágnes, 2016. "[In memory of victims": Monument and counter-monument in Liberty Square, Budapest](#)." *Hungarian Geographical Bulletin*, 65(3).

March 27: Post-Communist Nostalgia and Aspiration

Velikonja, M., 2009. "[Lost in transition: Nostalgia for socialism in post-socialist countries](#)." *East European Politics and Societies*, 23(4): 535-551.

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

April 3: Memory and Forgetting

Connerton, Paul. 2008. "[Seven Types of Forgetting](#)." *Memory Studies* 1(1): 59-71.

Week 13

April 9: Maya Lin and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial I

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

Wagner-Pacifici, Robin and Barry Schwartz. 1991. "[The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Commemorating a Difficult Past](#)." *American Journal of Sociology* 97(2): 376-420.

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?

Pasqualetti, Martin J. 1997. "[Landscape Permanence and Nuclear Warnings](#)." *Geographical Review* 87 (1): 73-91.

Langione, Matt. 2015. Will Art Save Our Descendants from Radioactive Waste? *JStor Daily*. May 13. <https://daily.jstor.org/can-we-use-art-to-warn-future-humans-about-radioactive-waste/>

Fountain, Henry. 2017. "On Nuclear Waste, Finland Shows U.S. How It Can Be Done." *New York Times*. June 9. <https://nyti.ms/2t3bw0k>

WhiskeyBristles. n.d. "Rulison Nuclear Test Site" *Atlas Obscura*. <http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/rulison-nuclear-test-site>