This interdisciplinary class explores the relationships among memory, place, and political power. The course begins with an introduction to key 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 post-communist states and in North America. 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.

**Course Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly discussion questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weekly (Weeks 3-13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weekly (Weeks 3-13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>February 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 3</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](http://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**

We have hyperlinked below to all journal articles and web sources - just click and download. If you are off campus, be sure to activate your VPN first. Book chapters and TBA readings will be available on myCourses.

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Weekly Discussion Questions
We will post discussion questions for each week on our myCourses site, beginning with Week 3. 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 3-13). 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 amazing Sihem Attalah (sihem.attalah@mail.mcgill.ca). Please register for a conference time on Minerva as soon as possible. Conferences will begin during Week 3 and attendance is mandatory (at this point, conferences will replace the Thursday lectures). 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 Mondays of Weeks 8 (February 20) and 13 (April 3) and must be submitted in two ways: 1) Electronically, on myCourses by 12 noon on the due date; 2) as a hard copy in class 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). The hard copies will be returned to you with grades.

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>
</tr>
</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>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<td>1.86-2.15</td>
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<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>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

On 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.

On 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/).

On 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 5: Introduction

Week 2

January 9: Memory in Classical Thought


January 10: Social Memory


January 12: Place, Memory, and Modernity


Week 3
Conferences and Weekly Questions start this week

January 16: Monuments and Memory


January 17: Counter-monuments and the Holocaust


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Week 4

January 23: Museums and Memory


January 24: New Cities: The Architecture of Power - Guest lecturer: Prof. Sarah Moser

Readings TBA

Week 5

January 30: Political Power and Collective Memory


January 31: Memory and Forgetting


Week 6

February 6: The Politics of Post-Communist Memory


February 7: Post-Communist Iconoclasm and Transitional Justice


Week 7

February 13: Soviet-Era Monuments in Russia


February 14: The World War Two Memory Wars


Week 8

Essay #1 due February 20 at Noon

February 20: The Politics of Memory in Hungary


February 21: Post-Communist Nostalgia and Aspiration


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

Week 9

March 6: Canadian War Memorials


March 7: Monumental Montreal


Week 10

March 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
March 14: The Politics of Indigenous Memory in North America


Week 11

March 20: Confederate Symbolism in the Contemporary U.S.


March 21: U.S. Civil Rights Memorials


Week 12

March 27: The Topography of Terrorism: Remembering 9/11


March 28: Temporary and Spontaneous Memorials

**Week 13**

*Essay #3 due April 3 at Noon*

*April 3: Maya Lin and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial I*

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


*April 4: Maya Lin and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial II*

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

**Week 14:**

*April 10: Can We Remember Forever?*


*April 11: The Future of Memory Politics*