Museums and Public Memory
ANTH 159a

Spring 2015
Prof. Schattschneider

Class Location: Shiffman 201
Class time: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:20
Prof. Schattschneider’s Office Hours: Tuesday 5:00-6:30 p.m., and by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:  This course explores the social and political organization of public memory, with particular attention to ethnographic and historical museums, memorials and “sites of conscience.” Who has the right to determine the content and form of such institutions and how are “communities” to be productively involved in their inception and design? Theoretical readings on remembrance, collection and display are complemented by field trips to museums and memorial sites. We also consider the potential of new media technologies for museum and memorials. We will take a number of field trips (either as a group, or individually) during the course of the semester to museums and memorial sites (details to be announced) — sites will include the Boston Museum of Fine Arts; Museum of Contemporary Arts/ICA, Boston; The Armenian Museum, Watertown; The Peabody-Essex Museum, Salem; The Longfellow House, Cambridge; a Guided Walk, National Park Service, “Black Heritage Trail”, Boston; and others TBA. Museum professionals will be visiting the class (or skyping in) for class discussions from time to time (details to be announced). Students are encouraged to explore the Boston metro area for other potential sites of interest, and consider basing final projects on such museum/memorial sites.

Course Requirements and Evaluation: Work for this course will count towards the final grade in the following fashion:

- Response Postings (approx. 500 words): 4 total, submitted on LATTE: @ 20%
- Paper #1 (5 pages): Due Friday, 2/14 at 5:00pm: @ 20%
- Final Research Paper Abstract and Annotated Bibliography: (1-2 page abstract plus Annotated Bibliography): Due Friday, 3/6 on LATTE
- Class Presentation on Final Research Project: @ 5%
- Final Research Paper, (12-15 pages) @ 35%: Due Thursday, 4/30
- Class Attendance and Participation: active class participation as well as contributing to “Opening Questions” exercise, see more details below): 20%
MUSEUM and MEMORIAL SITE VISITS:

Students will be expected to visit at least TWO museums of your own choosing and ONE memorial site (or historical re-enactment, eg. Lexington and Concord on 4/20/15) during the course of the semester. Your visits to these sites will be guided by an detailed assignment sheet asking you to respond to particular aspects of an exhibition or event (assignment sheets posted on LATTE). These assignments count towards the four required “Response Postings”. During periods when you are not visiting museums/memorial sites you will be asked to post to a prompt about the readings.

These museum and memorial site visits can serve as the focus for your final project.

If you visit more than two museums and write a report about your visit (using the form) you will receive extra credit.

ASSIGNMENTS:

SCHEDULE:
— Posting #1: Due Sunday, 1/25 by 5:00 p.m. (reflections on trip to MFA OR readings)
— Friday, 2/27: Paper #1 due by 11:00pm on LATTE
— Friday, 3/6: Posting #2 (on visit to exhibit “Permanent War” OR relevant readings): Due by 5:00 p.m. on LATTE
— Friday, 3/13: Final Research Paper Abstract and Annotated Bibliography: Due by 5:00 p.m. submitted to appropriate LATTE Assignments Folder
— Monday, 3/30: Posting #3, due by 5:00 p.m. on LATTE (reflections on “Black Heritage Tour” and Vilna Shul OR reflections on readings or class presentation by Prof. Auslander)
— Friday, 4/25: Posting #4 (reflections on Revolutionary War Commemorative events in Lexington OR reflections on readings/student presentations) Due by 5:00 p.m. on LATTE
— THURSDAY, 4/30: FINAL RESEARCH PAPER, DUE by 10:00 p.m. on LATTE

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

• Reading and Museum Response Postings: These assignments will be designed to ask you to respond to museum visits and relevant class readings. Specific assignments, as well as the museum visit response form, are posted on LATTE.

• Research Paper Abstract and Annotated Bibliography: This is an opportunity for you to explore a topic of your own choosing (in consultation with the instructor) of relevance to the issues being discussed in class. A one-two page research abstract, outlining the major topic (and questions)
along with an annotated bibliography of possible outside sources (as well as relevant class readings) posted to the appropriate LATTE folder. Detailed instructions will be posted on LATTE.

- **Graduate Students:** Graduate students will be required to do the all four Response Postings and museum/memorial site visits; contribute to the “Opening Questions” exercise; and submit one major research paper (18-20 pages); including a one-two page paper topic abstract due at the same time as similar undergraduate work is due.

- **Format for Papers:** All papers (submitted on LATTE) must be typed, double spaced, and in 10 or 12 point. Please use internal citations (eg. Bettelheim 1989: 75). Append a bibliography indicating all sources used in any way during the writing of the essay. Each essay should demonstrate mature, thoughtful engagement with all the various readings for the relevant section of the course, and should also engage in creative interpretation of the materials.

- **Attendance and Participation:** Attendance on time, is required. Please be sure to sign the sign in sheet each day. After ONE absence, EACH further absence will lead to a deduction of 5% of the overall class grade. (Please be aware that an email simply alerting the instructor to the fact that you will not be in class does not constitute an “excused” absence--you must provide a note from a doctor or other documentation for your absence.)

- **Class Participation and Discussion:** Students are expected to participate fully in class discussion—bringing paper copies (or relevant books) to all class sessions to facilitate close textual discussion.

- **“Opening Questions”:** Each student will help guide discussion on at least one course reading during the course of the semester, generating productive “opening” discussion questions— scheduling to be determined.

- **Laptop and Cell Phones:** This is a laptop and cellphone-free classroom, so please make sure all devices are turned off and stowed away.

- **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism.** You may only submit your own original work in this course; this includes quizzes, exams, response essays, written papers, and other media. Please be careful to cite precisely and properly the sources of all authors and persons you have drawn upon in your written work. Plagiarism (from published or internet sources) is a serious violation of academic integrity and of the relationship of trust between student and instructor. Please take special care to indicate the precise source of all materials found on the web, indicating the correct URL address of any material you have quoted or in any way drawn upon. Remember, you must indicate through quotations, indentation and citation when quoting from any outside source (internet or print). Please consult the relevant sections in the Student Handbook for reference.

- **Late work** will only be accepted ONLY under exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor, and if accepted, will be penalized.

- **Accommodations:** If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.
- **Readings** must be done by the assigned date; come to class ready to engage in intelligent discussion of each assigned reading. All readings (except for one book) are available in electronic form on LATTE. **Students are expected to bring hard copies of all the readings to class, along with detailed reading notes.**

The following required books are available for purchase at the University bookstore:

- Susan Crane (Editor). *Museums and Memory* (Stanford University Press, 2000)

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**Course Schedule**

※ **Tuesday, 1/13: Introduction**

※ **Thursday, 1/15: Objects and Remembrance—“Resonance and Wonder”**

- Stephen Greenblatt. “Resonance and Wonder.”
- Roland Barthes. Selections from *Camera Lucida*.

※ **Saturday, 1/17: Professor Schattschneider will lead an informal tour of the American Wing at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts at 1:30pm.** Please meet at the entrance to the exhibit (off the main atrium/cafe). Details will be posted on LATTE. *(NOTE: This will be the focus of the first posting—attendance is encouraged, but not required.)*

※ **Tuesday, 1/20: The “Exhibitionary Complex”**


※ **Thursday, 1/22: NO CLASS**
• Visit the MFA’s American Wing, submit Posting #1 about your visit—see posting topic on LATTE)

Posting #1: Due Sunday, 1/25 by 5:00 p.m. Please visit the American Wing at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; post on LATTE a 500 word report on the relative emphasis on Greenblatt’s theory of “resonance and wonder” and ONE other author read to date, eg. Barthes, Bennett, Kirshenblatt-Gimblett).

※ Tuesday, 1/27: “Cabinets of Curiosity”


• Tony Bennett. “Exhibition, Difference and the Logic of Culture.” (Museum Frictions)

• Martin Hall. “The Reappearance of the Authentic.” (Museum Frictions)

※ Thursday, 1/29: “Cabinets of Curiosity” and the History of Display

• Continued discussion of the history of exhibitory practices, especially “cabinets of curiosity”


※ Tuesday, 2/3: Holocaust Memorial Museum - I


• Korte, Mona. “Bracelet, Hand Towel, Pocket Watch: Objects of the Last Moment in Memory and Narrative.” Translated by Toby Axelrod.

• Edward Linenthal. Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. (Introduction and Chapters 1 &2)

※ Thursday, 2/5: Holocaust Memorial Museum - II

• Edward Linenthal. Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. (Chapters: 2-4 and Conclusion)

※ Tuesday, 2/10: Memorial Museums: Historical Memory and Material Objects

**Tuesday, 2/17:** UNIVERSITY BREAK — NO CLASS  
**Thursday, 2/19:** UNIVERSITY BREAK — NO CLASS  
**Tuesday, 2/24:** Museums and Memory

• Susan Crane, Editor: *Museums and Memory*.  
  — The Introduction; and:  
  — Chapter 7: Diana Drake Wilson. “Realizing Memory, Transforming History: Euro/American/Indians”  

**Thursday, 2/26:** On the Collection: Desire, Memory, Scale and the Visual - I

• Susan Stewart. *On Longing: Narratives of the Miniature, the Gigantic, the Souvenir, the Collection* (selections on LATTE)

❖ PAPER #1 Due: FRIDAY, 2/27 by 11:00 p.m. — submitted to appropriate Assignments  
Folder “Paper #1” on LATTE

❖ SATURDAY, 2/28 at 12:00 noon: GALLERY VISIT: The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, tour with curator of “Permanent War: The Age of Global Conflict”. Guest curator Pamela Allara brings together international artists to examine the current state of perpetual war and some of its historical antecedents—guided tour by the curator. **Attendance is required.**  
SEE: http://www.smfa.edu/permanent-war

**Please read the exhibition catalog: “Permanent War: The Age of Global Conflict.” (LATTE)**

❖ Tuesday, 3/3: On the Collection: Desire, Memory, Scale and the Visual - II

• Sigmund Freud. Selections from *The Interpretation of Dreams* (on condensation, displacement, projection and the visual)

• Sigmund Freud. “The Uncanny.”

※ Thursday, 3/5: Memorialization on the National Mall

• Kirk Savage. *Monument Wars: Washington, D.C., the National Mall, and the Transformation of the Memorial Landscape*. (Chapters: 3, 4 & 6)

🕔 Posting #2 (reflections on “Permanent State of War” exhibit OR readings reflection): Due Friday, 3/6 by 5:00 p.m.

※ Tuesday, 3/10: Case Study — The Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial (Washington D.C.)

• Marita Sturken. “The Wall, the Screen, and the Image: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Representations.” *Representations*, No. 35, Special Issue: Monumental Histories (Summer 1991) (pp. 118-142)


• Screen selections from the documentary: *Maya Lin, A Strong, Clear Vision*.

※ Thursday, 3/12: Informal Public Memorials


🕔 Friday, 3/13: Final Research Paper Abstract and Annotated Bibliography: Due by 5:00 p.m. submitted to appropriate LATTE Assignments Folder

※ Tuesday, 3/17: Politics of Cultural Heritage and Artifacts I: NAGPRA (Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act), Aboriginal Landscapes and Imperial Legacies


• NAGPRA (Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act): http://www.nps.gov/nagpra/ Recommended only:

• Jordan Jacobs. “Repatriation and the Reconstruction of Identity.” Museum Anthropology, Fall 2009 Vol. 32 #2 (pp. 83-98) (LATTE)

※ Thursday, 3/19: Politics of Cultural Heritage and Artifacts II: Aboriginal Material, Artistic and Cultural Ownership

• Howard Morphy. “Sites of Persuasion: Yingapugapu at the National Museum of Australia.” (Museum Frictions)

• Howard Morphy. Aboriginal Art. (selections) (LATTE)

• Seattle Art Museum Exhibit: http://www1.seattleartmuseum.org/ancestralmodern/

• “Mythscapes”: http://artxchange.org/mythscapes/

• Anna Hoover and “Fashion Statement”. (Exhibit materials)

Recommended only:


※ Tuesday, 3/24: Display and Performance: “Living Histories”, Reenactments, and Exhibitionary Space — I (Class visit by Prof. Auslander, Central Washington University)
• Mark Auslander. “Holding on to those who can’t be held”: Reenacting a Lynching at Moore’s Ford, Georgia.” *Southern Spaces*. November 2010. (LATTE)


• Fath Ruffins. “Revisiting the Old Plantation: Reparations, Reconciliation and Museumizing American Slavery.” (pp. 294-434) In *Museum Frictions*


※ Thursday, 3/26: Display and Performance: “Living Histories”, Reenactments, and Exhibitionary Space — II

• Amy M. Tyson. “Crafting Emotional Comfort: Interpreting the Painful Past at Living History Museums in the New Economy.” *Museum and Society*, Nov. 2008. 6(3) 246-262 (LATTE)


ภาย Friday, 3/27: GUIDED TOURS of Vilna Shul and “Black Heritage Trail”, Beacon Hill. We will meet at the Rabb Steps (I'll be waiting in a Brandeis van) for a tour of the Vilna Shul on Beacon Hill with Prof. Ellen Smith (begins at 3:00pm); then we will walk over to the Old South Meeting House for the “Black Heritage Trail” tour with National Park Ranger Michael Marciello, from 4:00-5:00pm. I will drive the van back to Brandeis after that—and of course you are also welcome to stay in Boston. *(Attendance is required.)*

מ Monday, 3/30: Posting #3 due by 5:00 p.m. on LATTE (reflections on “Black Heritage Tour” and Vilna Shul OR reflections on readings or class presentation by Prof. Auslander)

※ Tuesday, 3/31: Museums and Communities — I

• Ivan Karp (Editor). *Museums and Communities: The Politics of Public Culture*. Please read the following chapters:

  Chapter 1: Arjun Appadurai and Carol Breckenridge. “Museums are Good to Think: Heritage on View in India.”
※ Thursday, 4/2: Museums and Communities — II

• Ivan Karp (Editor). *Museums and Communities: The Politics of Public Culture*, including:
  
  Chapter 17: Fath Davis Ruffins. “Mythos, Memory and History: African American Preservation Efforts, 1820-1990.”

  Choose ONE:
  
  

※ Tuesday, 4/7: UNIVERSITY BREAK (PASSOVER)
※ Thursday, 4/9: UNIVERSITY BREAK (PASSOVER)

※ Tuesday, 4/14: Contested Histories and Future Imaginaries

• Michel Foucault. “Of other Spaces: Heterotopias.” (LATTE)

• David Bunn. “The Museum Outdoors.” (*Museum Frictions*)

※ Thursday, 4/16: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

>- MONDAY, 4/20: Special Lexington Revolutionary War Anniversary and Patriots’ Day Observances (Attendance is *not* required—Prof. Schattschneider will be there—if you’d like to come, please let me know!)

※ Tuesday, 4/21: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

※ Thursday, 4/23: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (LAST CLASS)

※ NOTE: Due to missed classes an ADDITIONAL SESSION for student presentations will have to be scheduled.

>- Friday, 4/25: Posting #4 (reflections on Revolutionary War Commemorative events in Lexington OR reflections on readings/student presentations) Due by 5:00 p.m.
FINAL RESEARCH PAPER, DUE: THURSDAY, 4/30 by 10:00 p.m. (12-15 pages, not including bibliography)