

Cultural Heritage and Near Eastern Archaeology

Dr. Salam Al Kuntar:

Course description

Cultural heritage studies have expanded rapidly in recent years, emerging as a field separate from archaeology and museum studies. In practice, the connection between archaeology and cultural heritage has proven to be complicated. This course will examine the contemporary practice of archaeology in the Middle East in relation to cultural heritage management in these countries. We will review the involvement of western and native archaeologists in the region and the intellectual traditions behind such involvement. We will also address questions on the role of Near Eastern archaeology in the production of cultural heritage: how was/is archaeological data used in political conflicts? How does CHM in certain countries shape archaeological practice? Can archaeological work produce cultural heritage that is meaningful/useful to the local communities around archaeological sites? What is global heritage?

Reading

Readings for the course are listed on the syllabus. About 50-70 pages assigned per week. (You should expect also to do additional reading as you research papers and presentations.

Course structure and requirements

The course will be in the format of a seminar. On Tuesdays, I will present a brief background of the week's topic and highlight questions followed by a discussion. On Thursdays, we will have a longer discussion based on the suggested readings for the week. One student will be asked to summarize an article or two and lead the discussion.

Attendance is critical in order to understand the course material. You will, however, be excused for religious obligations, or medical, personal, and family emergencies upon notification. Participation in class discussion is essential. A sign-up sheet for dates and topics will be distributed in week 3.

Each student is required to write 2 assessment papers (15-20 pages) and do a powerpoint presentation of the same topic in weeks 8 and 14. A list of essay topics and research sources will be delivered in class. However you can opt to choose a topic outside the provided list but you have to discuss with me the outline of your chosen topic. Papers are due 10 days after the presentation.

Grading:

1. Participation in seminar discussions 30%
2. 2 Presentations 10% each
3. 2 Research papers (including research structure and bibliography) 25% each

Coarse schedule

Week 1: Introduction, course outline and aims

Week 2: History of archaeological excavations in the Middle East (Syria and Iraq)

(Al Maqdissi 2008 Pionniers et protagonistes de l'archéologie syrienne 1860 – 1960, d'Ernest Renan à Sélim Abdulhak) (Emberling 2010: 15-21)

Week 3: History of archaeological excavations in the Middle East (Egypt, Palestine and Turkey). (Emberling and Teeter 2010:31-84), (Shaw 2004: 131- 153)

Week 4: Colonialism and NE archeology

(Bohrer 2003; Orientalism and Visual Culture: Imagining Mesopotamia in Nineteenth-Century Europe), (Bahrani 1998: 159-174) (Trigger 1984: 355-370)

Week 5: Nationalism and NE archaeology

(Hassan1998:200-217), (Özdoğan 1998: 111-123), (Abu El-Haj 1998: 166-188, short article 2012)

Week 6: Archaeologists with anthropological background

(Bernbeck and Pollock 2001:335-252) (Lydon and Rizvi 2012, selected reading from a book)

Week 7: Near Eastern archaeology and the production and preservation of culture heritage

(Meskell 2002: 557-574), (Steele 2005: 45:65) (Berbeck 2005:97-122)

Week 8: Student presentations

Week 9: Interaction between Near Eastern archaeologists and local communities: Case studies (Meskell 1998: 209-243), (Bartu-Candan 2007:70-94)

Week 10: Near Eastern archaeological ethics

(Raschka 2006:96-103 in Vitelli ed.), (Hodder 2002: 174:181) (Herscher 2001:138-154) (selected reading from Archaeology, Cultural Heritage, and the Antiquities Trade by Brodie et al 2006)

Week 11: Archaeologists and protection of cultural heritage at the time of war

(Curtis 2011:193), (Hanson 2011:113-128), (Farchakh Bajjaly 2011:182-191)

Week 12: Cosmopolitans archaeologists and global heritage

(Meskell 2009: 1-27), (Scham 2009: 166-183)

Week 13: The Legacy of Agatha Christie and Gertrude Bell: travelers and their contribution to Heritage. (Come tell me how you live by Agatha Christie; Amurath to Amurath by Gertrude Bell)

Week 14: Student presentations