

“SHORT SYLLABUS”

**Memorials, Monuments, and Cemeteries**

Fall 2023

Department of Art History (Rutgers University)

Program in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies

Instructor: Dr. Katharine Woodhouse-Beyer, RPA ; kwoodhou@arthist.rutgers.edu

Lecture day/time/location: Thursdays 12:10-3:10 PM, Zimmerli Museum EDR.

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This course is cross-listed:

01:082:441:01 (Topics in Politics, History, and Heritage)

16:082:594:01 (Studies in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies)

01:506:391:01 (Historical Studies)

No prerequisites are required to join our course –undergraduates/graduates from all disciplines are welcome!

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This cultural heritage seminar course explores the history and material culture of the memorialization of individuals, social groups, and historic events through time, cultures, and landscapes. Our course material will include local, national, and global case studies and examples drawn from the fields of cultural heritage, cultural resource management, historic preservation, archaeology, anthropology, history, art history, death studies, landscape architecture, and the contemporary world. Why and how do we choose to remember/memorialize some individuals and events over others? What does the form and design of cemeteries, monuments, and monuments reveal about communities, culture, politics, and cultural/historical memory? Which memorial sites and spaces stay secular – and which become sacred ground? How are material objects and art spaces used in acts of grief, memory, and commemoration? How and when do acts of memorialization become vehicles for mediating and reinterpreting the past? How and why do some sites associated with the dead and historic events become contested ground while others are forgotten? What is the role and purpose of “dark tourism” and studies of “negative heritage” as part of remembering and forgetting in the contemporary world?

## Course Objectives

Students enrolled in Memorials, Monuments and Cemeteries will be able to:

1. Understand the cultural, social and political contexts of collective memory, memorialization, and cultural heritage;
2. Consider the role of material culture and memorials in the process of history and memory-making;
3. Acquire a broad knowledge of the history of cemeteries, monuments, and memorials and the cultural and historical contexts in which they have been designed and built;
4. Know the roles, responsibilities, and activities of major international and national agencies and organizations as they work to protect cemeteries, monuments, and memorials;
5. Possess general knowledge about research methods and preservation/conservation techniques as applied to the study and preservation of cemeteries, monuments, and memorials;
6. Discuss the role of material culture and art spaces in acts of mourning, memory, and commemoration;
7. Contribute to studies of cemeteries, monuments, and memorials with discussion, research, and writing on these topics from a cultural heritage studies perspective.

Graded Assignments: Attendance (5%); Participation (5%); Article Introductions (ungraded); Case Study Report (25%); Cemetery/Monument/or Memorial paper + short presentation (30%); Research Paper (30%); Research Paper Discussion Posts (5%)

Class topics will include: the relationship between memory and history; why protect monuments and memorials; the will to remember – and forget; a brief history of cemeteries; historic preservation and cemeteries; art, death, and memory; memorial design; desecrated graves, venerated bodies, and sacred sites; memorialization at sites of atrocity, destruction, and mass death; counter monuments and complicated commemorations; toppling monuments; confederate monuments, decolonizing memorials and monuments; public art and memory places and spaces; memorial museums; living memorials, thanatourism.