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Methods in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies

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1. Course description

This course offers a critical overview of the variety of methods that are used in the identification, documentation and management of cultural heritage. Students will engage with the different types of heritage sources and disciplines that define this subject of study in all its diversity, in order to discuss methods descriptively and critically. Each seminar will consider the documentation of heritage from a different disciplinary vantage point, inviting discussions on the intimate relationship between methods, theories and standards used in cultural heritage. This course offers a venue and support for students to discuss and define more robust methodologies in their research papers and dissertations.

2. Course texts and readings

The readings required for this semester can be found at the library and at major online retailers. A number of other readings, including short articles and media materials will be provided online.

3. Course requirements and assessment

Class meetings will have three main components: lecture, discussion of readings, and practical sessions. All students are required to participate in class and engage with the readings and other materials. This will be evaluated in different ways:

- *Class Participation*: 25%, 100 points
- *Topic Bibliography*: 25%, 100 points
- *Final Paper OR Reports*: 50%, 100 points

Class participation: This course requires full and active participation of all students, who are expected to complete all required readings each week prior to class meetings and be prepared to contribute to the discussions. Students will be evaluated on the quality of the contributions. Class attendance is crucial. Students are allowed up to three non-justified absences, but no more than three. The final letter grade will be affected negatively by additional absences not justified with formal documentation (e.g. health reasons). The instructor will provide feedback on participation during the 5th week of classes to let the students know what to improve on.

Topic bibliography: Each student will research and submit an annotated bibliography on one of the topics in the syllabus (featuring a minimum of 15 chapters or

articles) that complements the sources already suggested for that particular topic. In an annotated bibliography, students are not simply summarizing the contents of the article, but you are also explaining how they contribute to the study of said topic.

Final paper. Graduate students will write a 10-page research paper (approximately 2800 words) on a subject of their preference, as long as it is related to the course themes. Students must relate the chosen topics to the readings and to critical heritage and preservation issues. It is due during the finals week. The details of this assignment will be discussed in advance, and the students must discuss their chosen subject with the instructor before starting their project.

Reports: Undergraduate students will write reports of five practical sessions. Each annotation will contribute 10% for a total of 50% toward the final grade. Reports are due in the class meeting after the practical session they relate to. Each report should be about 3-4 pages (approximately 1000 words).

Grading Scale

90-100	A
88-89	B+
80-87	B
78-79	C+
70-77	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

General Grading Detail for Assignments and Participation

Letter Grade	Comments
A	Excellent. Well-written, clearly communicated, demonstrates a clear understanding of material and shows critical and creative thinking, going beyond critique. For participation, consistently strong and productive contributions with creative insights. Always prepared for discussion.
B/B+	Good to very good. Fulfilled the assignment, with a few minor improvements suggested. Shows understanding that goes beyond simple definitions. For participation, generally strong and productive contributions. Consistently prepared for discussion.
C+	Basically completed the assignment as required, but little more. General understanding demonstrated. For participation, some substantive contributions, but little more than minimum expectations met. Occasional lateness, missed class, or lack of participation.
C/D	Content missing and limited demonstration of understanding. Consistently lacking in participation. Missed several class meetings without justification.

F	Missing significant content or did not follow guidelines. Major omissions and no understanding demonstrated. Missed many class meetings without justification.
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4. Course policies

It is strongly advisable for students to come to office hours, see the instructor after class, or make an appointment to meet if there are any questions, ideas, concerns, or difficulties to discuss. E-mail is good for logistical issues such as making appointments, but it is much better to discuss in person. The use of electronic devices (except laptops and tablets) is not allowed in classroom.

5. Plagiarism and academic honesty

In this course students are individually responsible for doing the assigned readings, and completing all assignments autonomously. Any students caught in violation of this policy will be assigned an "F" in the course and subject to further penalties as prescribed by the University. Check the University policies on: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>

6. Course schedule

Week 1

INTRODUCTION

Week 2

MAKING MEMORIALS

Week 3

ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

Week 4

ART CONSERVATION

Week 5

DIGITAL HERITAGE

Week 6

HERITAGE STAKEHOLDERS

Week 7

LANDSCAPE STUDIES

Week 8

ARCHAEOLOGY

Week 9

SENSORIAL HERITAGE

Week 10

ART

Week 11

HISTORY

Week 12

ANTHROPOLOGY

Week 13

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Week 14

RESEARCH SESSION

Week 15

CONCLUSION