GEOG 420 / POLI 420: Memory, Place, and Power  
Fall 2020

REMOTE TEACHING  
Lectures: Available as recorded videos

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Geography

Prof. Juliet Johnson  
Political Science

Virtual Office Hours:  
Tuesdays 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. and by appointment

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Teaching Assistants: TBA

NOTE: GEOG/POLI 420 will be taught remotely in Fall 2020. This draft syllabus provides a basic description of the course’s organization, but various elements will be refined over summer 2020. Please note that all lectures, videos, and reading material will be available through myCourses.

Exceptionally this semester, the class is scheduled on Minerva for two 80-minute lectures (Tuesday and Thursday). Normally the class meets for three 50-minute sessions each week, and the syllabus retains that organization because we will not be meeting physically for lectures. Starting Week 4, Conferences replace one of the three lectures.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading responses</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12 noon, Wednesdays Weeks 3-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weeks 4-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment TBD</td>
<td>XX%</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment TBD</td>
<td>XX%</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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You must submit both exams 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.

Note: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control (e.g., more pandemics, major political crisis, zombies), the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Readings
Most readings will be available on myCourses, in compliance with copyright regulations. Most of the texts that are not on myCourses are open access newspaper articles or blogs; you should get those readings on your own. For your convenience, we have hyperlinked nearly all readings on the syllabus below - just click and download. If you are off campus, be sure to activate your VPN first.

Weekly Discussion Questions
We will post discussion questions for each week on our myCourses site, beginning with Week 2. 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 2-6, 8-13). 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
The discussion activities will be conducted over Zoom, WebEx, or a similar video conferencing system on Thursdays or Fridays. If you will be unable to participate in such activities, please let the instructors know as soon as possible. Please register for a conference time on Minerva as soon as they are available. Conferences will begin during Week 4 and participation is mandatory (conferences will replace one of the three lectures starting that week). 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 the conference.

Other Assignments
We are developing assignments suitable for remote instruction that will be worth the remaining 80% of the course mark.
Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>1.86-2.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<td>1.0-1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>&lt;1.0</td>
</tr>
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</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.

The following two statements are required by University policy:

**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.

**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/](http://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/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/)).

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Schedule of Classes

Read the assigned material BEFORE you view the corresponding lecture and in the order listed below. You should do the set reading, watch the lectures, and complete your weekly response before your weekly conference.

Week 1 (September 1)

Lecture 1: Introduction

Week 2 (September 7)

Lecture 2: Memory in Classical Thought


Lecture 3: Social Memory


Lecture 4: Place, Memory, and Modernity


Week 3 (September 14) – Reading Response Questions start this week

Lectures 5 and 6: Monuments and Memory


Lecture 7: Political Power and Collective Memory


**Week 4 (September 21) - Conferences start this week**

**Lecture 8: Museums and Memory**


**Lecture 9: Redressing Colonial Alienation: The Role of Museums**

*Guest lecturer: Prof. Catherine Lu*


**Week 5 (September 28)**

**Lecture 10: Monuments and Counter-monuments**


**Lecture 11: Gender and Commemoration**


Khromeychuk, O., 2016. "What place for women in Ukraine’s memory politics?" Open Democracy Russia, 10.

**Week 6 (October 5)**

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Lectures 12 and 13: Maya Lin and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Watch film: Maya Lin: A Strong, Clear Vision


Week 7 (October 12)

Lecture 14: Memory and Forgetting


Lecture 15: The Politics of Post-Communist Memory


Week 8 (October 19)

Lecture 16: Post-Communist Iconoclasm and Transitional Justice


Lecture 17: Soviet-Era Monuments and Memory in Russia


Week 9 (October 26)

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Lectures 18 and 19: Postcommunist World War II Memory Wars


Week 10 (November 2)

Lecture 20: Post-Communist Nostalgia and Aspiration


Lecture 21: Confederate Symbolism in the Contemporary U.S.


Week 11 (November 9)

Lecture 22: U.S. Civil Rights Memorials


Lecture 23: Canadian War Memorials

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**Week 12 (November 16)**

**Lecture 24: Remembering 9/11: (Re)placing Terrorism**


**Lecture 25: The Politics of Indigenous Memory in North America**

Freeman, V. 2010. “‘Toronto Has No History!’ Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism, and Historical Memory in Canada's Largest City.” Urban History Review- Revue D Histoire Urbaine 38 (2): 21-35.


Gefre, C. 2016 “‘We are a testament’: Shoshone commemorate Bear River Massacre anniversary” HJ News, January 29.


**Week 13 (November 23)**

**Lecture 26: 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
Canadian Museum of History Aims to Avoid CBC's Pitfalls, Globe & Mail

Lecture 27: Monumental Montreal


Week 14 (November 30)

Lecture 28: Can We Remember Forever?


