

MEMORIALS, MONUMENTS AND MEMORY

Coordinator: Mark Dichter

Memorials represent expressions of our public and collective memory. They mark events that characterize our perception of our shared history, culture and ideals. As vehicles for communal commemoration they provide opportunities to gather and reconsider their subjects. This study group explores the history and meaning of memorials from various perspectives: aesthetic, political and cultural. In addition to memorials of celebration, we consider how memorials have changed the language of collective mourning (e.g., Maya Lin's Vietnam Veterans War Memorial). They probe difficult questions such as memory, war, race and genocide. We analyze the purposes of memorials at their time of creation, in contemporary society and for the future. This study group was offered in Spring 2015.

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

There will be a coursepack containing most of the readings. In advance of each class, weekly emails will contain additional readings and internet sites. The coursepack will cost approximately \$20. Weekly reading will entail about 20 pages.

Mark has a MFA from Columbia and a BSEE from MIT. He was a recording engineer, director & producer in the film industry. For past 10 years, he was a producer of videos for musical organizations in NYC.

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Week 1. REMEMBERING

MEMORIAL MANIA
REASON FOR CURRENT UPSURGE IN MEMORY
HISTORY AND MEMORY
MEMORY AND HISTORY IN OPPOSITION
COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Week 2. FORGETTING

THE PAST IN THE PRESENT
PARADOX IN EVERY MEMORIAL
INTERVIEW WITH AVISHAL MARGALIT
ART OF FORGETTING
WHY DOES MEMORY MATTER?

Week 3. HISTORY AND WAR MEMORIALS

DEFINITIONS -- MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS
WHY DO WE BUILD MONUMENTS/MEMORIALS?
PROSPECTIVE MEMORY
DECONSTRUCTING HISTORICAL MARKERS
INTERROGATING MEMORIALS

Week 4. WAR MEMORIALS AND WWI

SITES OF MEMORY -- SITES OF MOURNING
REMEMBERING TO FORGET

Week 5. THE MALL

MONUMENT WARS
MAP OF MALL
MONUMENTS AND MEN

Week 6. VIETNAM

THE WALL, THE SCREEN AND THE IMAGE
THE POWER OF A NAME

Week 7. POST VIETNAM

MOMENTO MORI
THE MONUMENT GLUT
MEMORIALS SET HISTORY IN STONE
KOREAN CONTROVERSY
TURNING MEMORY INTO TRAVESTY
NEW WAR MEMORIAL IS A SHRINE TO SENTIMENT
EISENHOWER MEMORIAL CONTROVERSY GROWS
ROOSEVELT'S DISABILITY AN ISSUE AT MEMORIAL

Week 8. MEMORIAL MUSEUMS AND THE HOLOCAUST

INTRODUCING THE MEMORIAL MUSEUM
FIGHTING THE FORGETFUL FUTURE
THE ART OF MEMORY
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

Week 9. HOLOCAUST (continued)

STUMBLING STONES
HORROR UNFORGOTTEN
INVISIBLE PAST, INVISIBLE FUTURE
THE MONUMENT AGAINST FASCISM

Week 10. DOMESTIC TRAUMA

STONES AND BONES
FACTS OF OKLAHOMA CITY
REMEMBRANCE, RELEVANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

PUBLIC GRIEF AND THE POLITICS OF MEMORIALS

Week 11. CIVIL WAR / CIVIL RIGHTS

STANDING SOLDIERS, KNEELING SLAVES (epilog)

STANDING SOLDIERS, KNEELING SLAVES (review)

THE MLK MEMORIAL'S COMPLICATED HISTORY

"DRUM MAJOR" INSCRIPTION REMOVAL

MONUMENTAL ISSUES DIVIDE OLD DOMINION

HOW DO WE DECIDE THE FATE OF CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS IN NEW
ORLEANS

AMERICA NEEDS A NATIONAL SLAVERY MUSEUM

Week 12. MISCELLANEOUS

RISE OF THE ANTI MEMORIAL LANGUAGE

WHY DON'T WE BUILD STATUES FOR OUR WAR HEROES ANYMORE

SPONTANEOUS SHRINES

TOURISTS OF HISTORY

TURKISH OFFICIALS OPPOSE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE MONUMENT IN
PASADENA