

The University of Western Ontario
Department of History
2014-2015

History 9809A - Social Memory in Europe and North America

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Lawson Hall 2247
661-2111 ext. 84974

Michaelmas Term
Monday 9:30 - 11:30AM
Lawson Hall 2270C

This research course is an introduction to the phenomenon of social memory in various modern societies. It will address such matters as the commemoration of historical events and the meanings conferred on them, conflicts over different versions of history, the construction of collective identities around historical events, and the influence of historical events on modern nationalisms. In each case, there will be an attempt to understand the continuing impact of the past on the present. The seminar readings will be divided into themes, with each week's readings examining a different case study of the theme.

Texts:

Students are not required to purchase texts for this course. All readings are available on the course website, in the periodicals section of the D.B.Weldon Library, or on two-hour reserve in the D.B.Weldon Library.

Assignments:

Historical anniversary report (due 6 October)	30%
Major research essay (due date TBA)	60%
Participation / Presentation	10%

Historical anniversary report: Students will also write a report on the evolution of a significant historical anniversary or national holiday (ie. Columbus Day, Remembrance Day, the 4th of July, Dominion/Canada Day, Empire Day, Guy Fawkes' Day, Bastille Day, etc.) based on newspaper reports from one city. You should cover as broad a time span as possible, and trace the changing meanings with which the day has been endowed over time. The report should be 8-10 pages in length, and presented in proper scholarly format. It will be due on 7 October, and is worth 30% of the final course grade.

Major Research Essay: Students will write a major research paper (based on significant work in primary materials) on a topic of their choice, to be arrived at in consultation with the instructor. In selecting an essay topic, you should be as imaginative and innovative as possible while bearing in mind the availability of relevant primary sources and the soundness of the topic in a theoretical sense. The final draft of the paper should be 20-25 pages in length and must be presented in proper scholarly format. The due date will be announced in September. As part of the assignment, a two-page outline must be submitted on 20 October.

Participation / Presentation: The success of the seminar depends on the willingness of students to keep up with the readings on a weekly basis and to take part fully in the discussion. Your participation will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the term. In addition, each student will make a short presentation on an aspect of the week's reading (of no more than 10 minutes – time limits will be enforced). The precise topic will be given to you the week before your presentation. You should sign up on the sheet on my office door for the week of your choice.

Seminar Schedule

8 September - Introduction

15 September - How Societies Remember

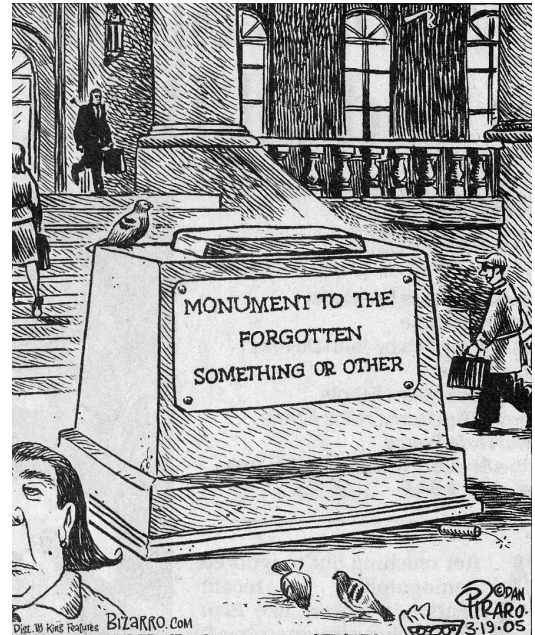
John Bodnar, *Remaking America: Public Memory, Commemoration, and Patriotism in the Twentieth Century* (1992): 13-20

Peter Burke, "History as Social Memory" in Thomas Butler, ed., *Memory: History, Culture and the Mind* (1989): 97-113

Michael Kammen, *Mystic Chords of Memory: The Transformation of Tradition in American Culture* (1991): 3-14

Malcolm Chase and Christopher Shaw, eds., *The Imagined Past: History and Nostalgia* (1989): 1-32

Raphael Samuel and Paul Thompson, eds., *The Myths We Live By* (1990): 1-22



22 September - no class - work on your historical anniversary report!!

MEMORY AND THE MARKETPLACE

29 September - The *Titanic*

Steven Biel, *Down With the Old Canoe: A Cultural History of the Titanic Disaster* (1996): part II

John Wilson Foster, "Imagining the Titanic" in Eve Patten, ed., *Returning to Ourselves: Second Volume of Papers from the John Hewitt International Summer School* (1995): 325-43

James Guimond, "The *Titanic* and the Commodification of Catastrophe" in Peter Gray and Kendrick Oliver, eds., *The Memory of Catastrophe* (2004): 79-90

6 October - Memory and Public History ** Historical anniversary report due **

Irene Furlong, "Excavating the Emerald Isle: The Use of the Past in Irish Tourism" in Terence Dooley, ed., *Ireland's Polemical Past* (2010): 160-75

Stephen Gapps, "On Being a Mobile Monument: Historical Reenactments and Commemorations," in Iain McCalman and Paul Pickering, eds., *Historical Reenactment: From Realism to the Affective Turn* (2010): 50-62

Richard Handler and Eric Gable, *The New History in an Old Museum: Creating the Past at Colonial Williamsburg* (1997): ch. 2 & 9

J. Geraint Jenkins, *Getting Yesterday Right: Interpreting the Heritage of Wales* (1992): ch. 1

13 October - Touring the Third Reich

Mats Burström and Bernhard Gelderblom, "Dealing with Difficult Heritage: The Case of Bückeberg, site of the Third Reich Harvest Festival," *Journal of Social Archaeology* 11/3 (2011): 266-82

Rudy Koshar, *Germany's Transient Pasts: Preservation and National Memory in the Twentieth Century* (1998): ch. 6

Brian Ladd, *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape* (1997): ch. 4

John Lennon and Malcolm Foley, *Dark Tourism: The Attraction of Death and Disaster* (2000): ch. 3 & 4

Sharon Macdonald, *Difficult Heritage: Negotiating the Nazi Past in Nuremberg and Beyond* (2009): ch. 7

CONSTRUCTING IDENTITY

20 October - Gunfighter Nation ** essay outline due **

David Hamilton Murdoch, *The American West: The Invention of a Myth* (2001): ch. 6 & 7

Randy Roberts and James S. Olson, *A Line in the Sand: The Alamo in Blood and Memory* (2001): ch. 8 & 9

Richard Slotkin, *The Fatal Environment: The Myth of the Frontier in the Age of Industrialization, 1800-1890* (1985): ch. 1 & 2

Richard Slotkin, *Gunfighter Nation: The Myth of the Frontier in Twentieth-Century America* (1992): ch.2

27 October - Scottishness

John R. Gold and Margaret M. Gold, "'The Graves of the Gallant Highlanders': Memory, Interpretation and Narratives of Culloden," *History and Memory* 19/1 (2007): 5-38

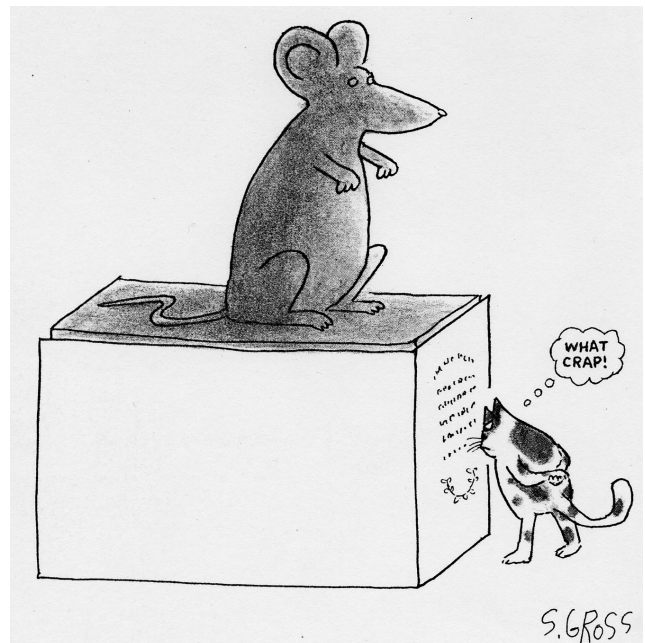
Laurence Gouriévidis, "Representing the Disputed Past of Northern Scotland," *History and Memory* 12/2 (2000): 122-41

David McCrone, Angela Morris, and Richard Kiely, *Scotland – The Brand: The Making of Scottish Heritage* (1995): 73-109

Hugh Trevor-Roper, "The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland" in

Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition* (1983): 15-41.

Charles Withers, "The Historical Creation of the Scottish Highlands" in Ian Donnachie and Christopher Watley, eds., *The Manufacture of Scottish History* (1992): 143-56



3 November - Centennial and Bicentennial

John Bodnar, *Remaking America: Public Memory, Commemoration, and Patriotism in the Twentieth Century* (1992): 226-44

Robert G. Hartje, *Bicentennial USA: Pathways to Celebration* (1973): 3-31

Peter H. Aykroyd, *The Anniversary Compulsion: Canada's Centennial Celebrations* (1992): 89-126, 177-201

Jonathan F. Vance, *Building Canada: People and Projects That Shaped the Nation* (2006): 123-47

WAR AND MEMORY

10 November - Remembrance Day

Ronald Coppin, "Remembrance Sunday," *Theology* 68 (October 1965): 525-30

Adrian Gregory, *The Silence of Memory: Armistice Day, 1919-1946* (1994): ch. 1

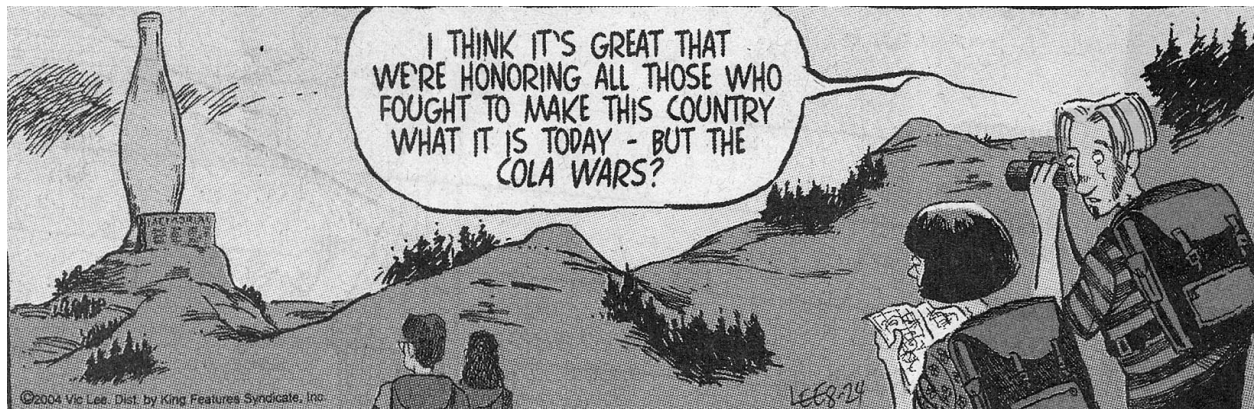
Nancy Holmes, "'In Flanders Fields': Canada's Official Poem," *Studies in Canadian Literature* 30/1 (2005): 11-33

Teresa Iacobelli, "A Participants' History?: The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Manipulation of Oral History," *Oral History Review* 38/2 (2011): 331-48

Keith Robbins, "Commemorating the Second World War in Britain: Problems of Definition," *History Teacher* 29/2 (1996): 155-62

Jonathan F. Vance, *Death So Noble: Memory, Meaning, and the First World War* (1997): 202-25

17 November - Pearl Harbor and 9/11



Mick Broderick and Mark Gibson, "Mourning, Monomyth and Memorabilia: Consumer Logics of Collecting 9/11," in Dana Heller, ed., *The Selling of 9/11: How a National Tragedy Became a Commodity* (2005): 200-20

Emily S. Rosenberg, *A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor in American Memory* (2003): part II

Geoffrey M. White, "National Subjects: September 11 and Pearl Harbor," *American Ethnologist* 31/3 (2004): 293-310

24 November - Vietnam

Albert Boime, *The Unveiling of the National Icons: A Plea for Patriotic Iconoclasm in a Nationalist Era* (1998): epilogue
Fred Turner, *Echoes of Combat: Trauma, Memory, and the Vietnam War* (2001): ch. 8
Jerry Lembcke, *The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory and the Legacy of Vietnam* (1998): ch. 9
Lawrence A. Tritle, "Monument to Defeat: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in American Culture and Society," in Polly Low, Graham Oliver and P.J. Rhodes, eds., *Cultures of Commemoration: War Memorials Ancient and Modern* (2012): 159-79
"Vietnam Veterans Memorial," *National Geographic* 167/5 (May 1985): 552-73

1 December - Conclusion

Please note the University Senate's statement on plagiarism:

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Health and Wellness

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html. This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation