**Syllabus**

*Building Up and Tearing Down: Monuments in Cross Cultural Perspective*

This course is a survey of selected monuments (statues/sculptures, memorials, tombs, public architecture, natural and non-built monuments, and sites of consciousness) from antiquity to the present. We examine the life histories of these works including construction, restoration, preservation, repurposing, and destruction in distinct cultural contexts around the globe. We will delve into the roles of monuments in creating collective memories and the politics and power structures involved in determining what and who is remembered.

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Class Meetings: Wednesdays from 11:30am-1pm, September 14- November 2, in person and virtual

*Course Outline*

Meeting 1, September 14, 2022: This week will be an introduction to monuments. We will look at reasons for why people construct monuments and how they can be used to build identity, signal values, honor, intimidate, include and exclude.

Meeting 2, September 21, 2022: The focus of this week’s discussion will be statues in public spaces. We will begin with a presentation on the myth of whiteness in classical sculpture and why it continues to persist. We will then examine the recent trend of toppling statues, turning our thoughts to why this is happening across the world at this point in history, and what should or could be done with the statues that have been removed. We will then finish with a survey of Indian Mega-Monuments and take a closer look at the Statue of Liberty.

Meeting 3, September 28, 2022: We will devote the third week to Architecture and take a closer look at the life history of the Athenian Acropolis and the Parthenon, the Hagia Sophia in Turkey, Ise Jingu shrine in Japan. The complexities of the life history of each structure requires unique and challenging preservation strategies to be employed.

Meeting 4, October 5, 2022: Memorials will be the focus of this week’s conversation. We will tour the Taj Mahal in Indian and Tomb of the First Qin Emperor (Where the Terracotta Army was located) in China, focusing on symbolism, power, and perception. We will then look at modern memorials for victims of war and violence and analyze the importance of setting, space, and contemplation.

Meeting 5, October 12, 2022: Some monuments are not built, but instead natural areas, landscapes, or features on the landscape with deep meaning. This week we will look at the development of the National Monument system in the U.S.A., Bears Ears National Monument, Uluru (Ayer’s Rock) in Australia, and cenotes of the Mayan Yucatán Peninsula, Belize, and Guatemala. We will note differences in preservation strategies and operations.

Meeting 6, October 19, 2022: In the modern age, Museums have been established at sites of consciousness, including places of internment, massacre, genocide, and other atrocities. We evaluate issues of design and governance at the 9/11 Memorial Museum, National Museum and Memorial for Peace and Justice, a Rwandan Genocide Museum, several Holocaust Museums, and Museums at sites of Japanese-American Internment Camps. Additionally, we will examine the ethically gray areas at the intersection of tourism and tragedy.

Meeting 7, October 26, 2022: This week we will thoroughly examine Confederate monuments in the United States, with particular attention to when these monuments were erected, who built them, where they are located, and who funded them, in order to determine motives and interpretations. We will also investigate the movements to remove these statues and who should decide the fate of these monuments.

Meeting 8, November 5, 2022: In our final week, we will turn our attention to the future of monuments. We will investigate the work of modern organizations such as Monument Lab and discuss if and how it might be possible to democratize public memory and historical narratives. We can also share suggestions for further readings and investigations of monument related themes based on participants interests.

*Non-Required Reading List*: These readings are for those who want to further explore topics discussed in the class meetings.

1. No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice, by Karen L. Cox. The University of North Carolina Press, 2021.
2. Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves: Race, War, and Monument in Nineteenth-Century America, by Kirk Savage. Princeton University Press, 2018. ISBN-10: 0691183152.
3. Silencing the Past, by Michel-Rolph Trouillot. Beacon Press, 2015. ISBN-10: 0807080535.
4. Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America, by Erika Doss. University of Chicago Press, 2012. ISBN-10: 9780226159416
5. Teachable Monuments: Using Public Art to Spark Dialogue and Confront Controversy, edited by Sierra Rooney, Jennifer Wingate, and Harriet F. Senie. Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2021. ISBN-10: 1501356940
6. Monument Lab: Creative Speculations for Philadelphia, edited by Pul M. Farber and Ken Lum. Temple University Press, 2019. ISBN-10: 1439916063
7. Controversial Monuments and Memorials: A Guide for Community Leaders, edited by David B. Allison. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2018. ISBN-10: 1538113738
8. Written in Stone: Public Monuments in Changing Societies, by Sandford Levinson. Duke University Press Books, 1998. ISBN-10: 082232220X
9. Monument Culture: International Perspectives on the Future of Monuments in a Changing World, by Laura A. Macaluso. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2019. ISBN-10: 1538114151.