Cultural Memory – Memory Cultures

Module Code
TBC

Credits/Level
30/7

Module Type
Academic

Previous Name
TBC

Teaching Pattern
10 three-hour sessions, plus reading week

Synopsis
This module will explore theoretical concepts of ‘cultural memory’ and the interdisciplinary and dynamic field of memory studies. Over the course of the term we will look at social, cultural and political practices that produce ‘a sense of the past’ and are instrumental in the formation of identities, beliefs and ideologies. We investigate the relation between social and psychological dimensions of memory and between the politics and ethics of remembering and forgetting. We explore how memory content is produced, disseminated and secured with the help of case studies across a range of international locations and cultural forms. The main questions we will address are how memories travel across national, ethnic and religious borders in a global context; how the palimpsestic layers of a place inform an ‘archaeology of memory’; how contested versions of the past can create ‘memory wars’; if the creative potential of art and new media can help to subvert hegemonic memories, and if the memory boom of recent decades has contributed to a commercialization of ‘experiences of the past’ in the heritage industry.

Coursework/Assessment

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<th>Basic Requirements</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<td>Essay</td>
<td>5,000 words</td>
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Entrance Requirements

Indicative Content
Session 1: Cultural Memory – Theories and Concepts
Session 2: Post-Memory
Session 3: Transgenerational Haunting
Session 4: Transcultural Memory and its Locations
Session 5: Politics of Memory I (Gender, ‘Race’, Nation, Ethnicity)
Session 6: Politics of Memory II
Session 7: Memory, Matter and Place
Session 8: Memory and Migration
Session 9: Making Memories, Making Histories: Interpreting the Archive
Session 10: Remediating Memory in a Digital Age