

History 192Q: Seminar in History, Memory and Museums

enrollment code #55517

Prof. Ann Plane

HSSB 4215

x2713

email: plane@humanitas

office hours: Wednesdays 10-12 or by appointment

Winter 2001

Wed 1-3:50

Snidecor 1622

This is an advanced undergraduate reading seminar in the field of public memory, an aspect of the discipline of public history. We will explore the role of public memory in building national, local, ethnic/racial, and personal identities, emphasizing the role of museums in western, and specifically, US culture. We will explore a variety of topics, including historical commemoration, tourism, historical re-enactment, and living history. Readings are arranged roughly chronologically. We begin by exploring memory as a social and cultural phenomenon; we then trace the rise of museums, collecting, and commemoration in North America from the eighteenth century to the present. Throughout, readings and discussions will explore the important roles of historical commemoration, historical re-enactment, historical imagination, and public presentation of history in the development of ethnic and national identities in the twentieth-century United States.

Students will read the following works:

Paul Connerton, How Societies Remember

David Lowenthal, The Past is a Foreign Country

Rosenzweig and Thelen, The Presence of the Past

John Bodnar, Remaking America

W. Leon and R. Rosenzweig, History Museums in the United States

R. Handler and E. Gable, The New History in an Old Museum

Patricia West, Domesticating History

Tony Horwitz, Confederates in the Attic

sCOURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This is an intensive seminar. Therefore, you **MUST** attend class, having prepared all assigned readings in order to be able to participate in the discussion. We will also have two short papers, one longer “report from the field,” and a final exam (take-home essay).

Grades will be assigned as follows:

25% attendance and participation in discussion, in-class assignments, etc.

15% paper #1 (2-3 pp/700 words)

15% paper #2 (2-3 pp/700 words)

20% report from the field (4-6 pages/1300 words

***due any time between Feb. 21 and March 14)**

25% final exam (take home, 5 pages, 1300 words)

***due HSSB 4215, at or before noon, Thurs. Mar. 22)**

All University of California rules regarding plagiarism will apply; Instructor will provide additional details in class.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Wed. January 10: Organizational Day

No readings

Wed. January 17: Public Memory

Paul Connerton—entire (pp. 1-104)

David Lowenthal--Intro, Chapter 1 (pp. xv-xxvii, 3-34)

Reading room: Shelton, Cabinets of Transgression (pp. 177-203)

Wed. January 24: Memory and the Birth of the Museum

David Lowenthal—chaps. 2-3 (pp. 35-124)

Gary Kulik essay in Leon and Rosenzweig, (pp. 3-37)

Patricia West, intro and Chapter 1 (pp. xi-xiii, 1-37)

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: 2-3 page paper due at beginning of class

Wed. January 31: Artifacts and the Nineteenth Century

David Lowenthal—chaps. 4-6 (pp. 125-362)

John Bodnar intro, chaps. 1-2 (pp. 3-38)

Wed. Feb 7: Home, Place and Identity

David Lowenthal—chap. 7 (pp. 363- 413)

John Bodnar, chaps. 3-5 (pp. 41-137)

Patricia West, chap. 2 (pp. 39-91)

Herbst in Leon and Rosenzweig, (pp. 98-114)

Wed. Feb. 14: Institutionalizing History in mid-century America

John Bodnar, chaps. 6-7 (pp. 138-205)

Patricia West, chap. 3-4 (pp. 95-162)

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: 2-3 page paper due at beginning of class

Wed. Feb. 21: Living History

Leon and Piatt in Leon and Rosenzweig (pp. 64-97)

Richard Handler and Eric Gable, chaps. 1-6 (pp. 3-169)

Wed. Feb. 28: Approved Histories, Alternate histories, and the Historical Imagination

Richard Handler and Eric Gable, chaps. 7-9 (pp. 170-235)

Reading Room: Peter Nabokov essay (pp. 1-59)

Thomas (pp. 116-136)

Richard Price (TBA)

Melosh essay, Horton and Crew essay, in Leon and Rosenzweig (pp. 183-236)

Wed. Mar. 7: Outside the Box—Americans and Historical Connection

John Bodnar, (pp. 169-253)

Robert Rosenzweig and David Thelen, ch 1-2, appendix (pp. 1-62, plus 209-231)

Tony Horwitz, chaps. 1-4 (pp. 3-88)

Wed. Mar. 14: Imagined Pasts

Rosenzweig and Thelen, chaps. 3-6, Conclusion (pp. 63-207)

Tony Horwitz, chaps. 5, 10(pp. 89-124, 209-281).

Take-Home Final handed out in class Wed. Mar 14

Due at my office, noon, Thurs. March 22.