HI7060 History, Memory and Commemoration

Module type Optional (approved module: MPhil in Public History)

Term / hours Michaelmas / 22

ECTS 10

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Lecturer(s) Dr Joseph Clarke

Cap 2 (depending on demand)

Module description

This module analyses the way in which significant people and/or events have been, or are to be, commemorated in monuments, museums, and other forms. The culture and politics of commemoration (both today and in the past) will be considered, as well as tensions between public perceptions of the past and those advanced by professional historians. The module will focus on selected themes drawn from a list, including the French Revolution, the Great Famine, the Great War, the Easter Rising, and the Gandhi dynasty.

Assessment

The module is assessed through a 4,000-5,000-word essay on an approved topic relating to the content of the module.

Indicative bibliography

- P. Connerton, How Societies Remember (Cambridge, 1996).
- S. Crane, 'Writing the Individual back into Collective Memory', *American Historical Review*, 102 (1997), 1372-1385.
- S. Englund, 'The Ghost of Nation Past: review of Les Lieux de Mémoire' *Journal of Modern History*, 64 (1992), 299-320.
- N. Gedi and Y. Elam, 'Collective Memory What Is It?', History & Memory, 8 (1996), 30-50.
- J. Gillis, 'Memory and Identity: the History of a Relationship' in J. Gillis (ed.) Commemorations: the politics of national identity (Princeton, 1994).
- M. Halbwachs, On Collective Memory (Chicago, 1992), (first published 1925).
- E. Hobsbawm and T. Ranger, eds. *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge, 1983).
- K. Hodgin and S. Radstone, 'Introduction', in K. Hodgin and S. Radstone, (eds.) *Contested Pasts* (London, 2003).
- K. L. Klein, 'On the Emergence of Memory in Historical Discourse', *Representations*, 69 (2000), 127-50.
- J. Le Goff, *History and Memory* (New York, 1992).

- D. Lowenthal, *The Past is a Foreign Country* (Cambridge, 1985).
- S. Lukes, 'Political Ritual and Social Integration', Sociology, 9, (1975), 289-308.
- P. Nora, 'Between Memory and History', Representations, 26 (1989), 7-24.
- P. Nora, (ed.) *Les Lieux de Mémoire*, 7 vols. (Paris, 1984-92). Also available in English translation as P. Nora, ed. *Realms of Memory*, 3 vols (New York, 1996-98).
- H. Schulze and E. François (eds), *Deutsche Erinnerungsorte*, 3 vols (Munich, 2001).
- J. Winter, Remembering War: the Great War between Memory and History in the Twentieth Century (New Haven, 2006).

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- LO1 Identify the context of commemoration of particular individuals and/or events.
- LO2 Review the role played by professional historians in the process of commemoration.
- LO3 Formulate research questions for the purposes of essay writing.
- LO4 Engage critically with primary texts and secondary literature.
- LO5 Consider critically issues of historicity, authenticity and accuracy.
- LO6 Evaluate the impact of specific monuments, museums or other forms of commemoration on public perceptions of the past.