

GEOG 420 / POLI 420: Memory, Place, and Power

Fall 2020 Remote but not Distant!

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Tuesdays 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. and by appointment

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This interdisciplinary class explores the relationships among memory, place, and political power. The course begins with an introduction to memory and place-making. It then uses this foundation to examine the symbolic transformation of public space, in particular the construction, alteration, and destruction of monuments, memorials, and museums in North America and in the post-communist world. This approach emphasizes the social quality of memory, exploring the ways in which political interests, economic resources, and social practices can shape something as ostensibly personal and individual as memory.

Course Requirements

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Reading Responses	15%	Wednesdays 12 noon Montreal time Weeks 3-11 and 13-14

Readings

All readings are available on myCourses, and we have hyperlinked many as well (if you are off campus, be sure to activate your VPN to access copyrighted hyperlinked material). Please do the readings for the week before watching the lectures.

Lectures

Lectures and other course video materials will be pre-recorded and posted on myCourses. Please watch them by Tuesday night of the week in which they are assigned. We taught this course in a lecture theatre in Winter 2020 and much of our lecture material can be adapted from those previously recorded lectures. We are using

guidelines for each kind of conference by Week 2. Please register for a conference time as soon as the schedule is available; you must attend the conference in which you are registered. To encourage attendance and free-flowing discussion, Zoom conferences will not be recorded. Participants should turn on their cameras during the conference as well as unmute their audio when called upon to speak. You can miss one conference during the semester without penalty.

Major Assignments

Further details on each assignment will be distributed early in the semester.

Analytic Essay

You will write a 1,500-1,800 word analytic essay based on one of two prompts provided by the instructors. It should draw primarily on scholarly sources, have a clear thesis, and be well supported by reference to the scholarly literature. It should be double spaced and in 12-point font. Please attach a separate bibliography, not included in the 1,500-1,800 words. The analytic essay is due via myCourses by 12 noon Montreal time on Monday, October 5.

Policy Brief

You will write a 1,200-1,500 word policy brief based on one of two prompts provided by the instructors. Your policy brief should clearly describe your proposed policy recommendation, the rationale for adopting it, and the primary evidence supporting it. The emphasis is on tight, persuasive writing. Please attach a separate reference list, not included in the 1,200-1,500 words. You may also attach relevant tables, charts, pictures, or figures, but be selective. The policy brief is due via myCourses by 12 noon Montreal time on Monday, November 9.

Video or Podcast

You will prepare an informative 10-12 minute video presentation or podcast introducing a site of memory and relating it to one or more themes of the course. Videos/podcasts and full written transcripts must be submitted via myCourses by noon Montreal time on Friday, November 20. The videos/podcasts of your conference mates are the assigned course materials for Week 13.

Late Submission and Assessment Policies

For the analytic essay and policy brief: Late papers submitted up to five days after the due date will receive a maximum grade of B+. Papers submitted after five days but by the last day of fall semester classes (December 7) will receive a maximum grade of C. No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes.

For the video/podcast: As this is a time-sensitive assignment, videos/podcasts will receive a maximum grade of B+ if submitted one day late and B if submitted two days late.

Videos/podcasts submitted after two days but before the last day of classes will receive a maximum grade of C. No videos/podcasts will be accepted after the last day of classes.

Completing all three major assignments by the last day of fall classes (December 7) is a requirement for receiving a passing grade in this course. Please see the [University Student Assessment Policy](#) as well as the [Geography](#) and [Political Science](#) department assessment policies for more information concerning assessment. All regrade requests must be accompanied by a written justification. Marks on regraded assignments may go up, down, or remain the same.

General Information

This course uses the standard 4.0 system for grading. An A on a course component is worth 4 points, an A- is worth 3.7 points, etc. To calculate your final grade, we will multiply the grade points you earn on each course component by the relative weight of that component (e.g., 0.25 for each major assignment), and then add the scores to get your final grade-point average. That average will determine your final letter grade for the course (refer the grade range column). For example, if your overall grade-point average is a 3.4, you would earn a B+ in the course.

Copyright

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., lectures, slides, notes, summaries, assignments, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Netiquette

The University recognizes the importance of maintaining teaching spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all involved. To this end, offensive, violent, or harmful language arising in contexts such as the following may be cause for disciplinary action:

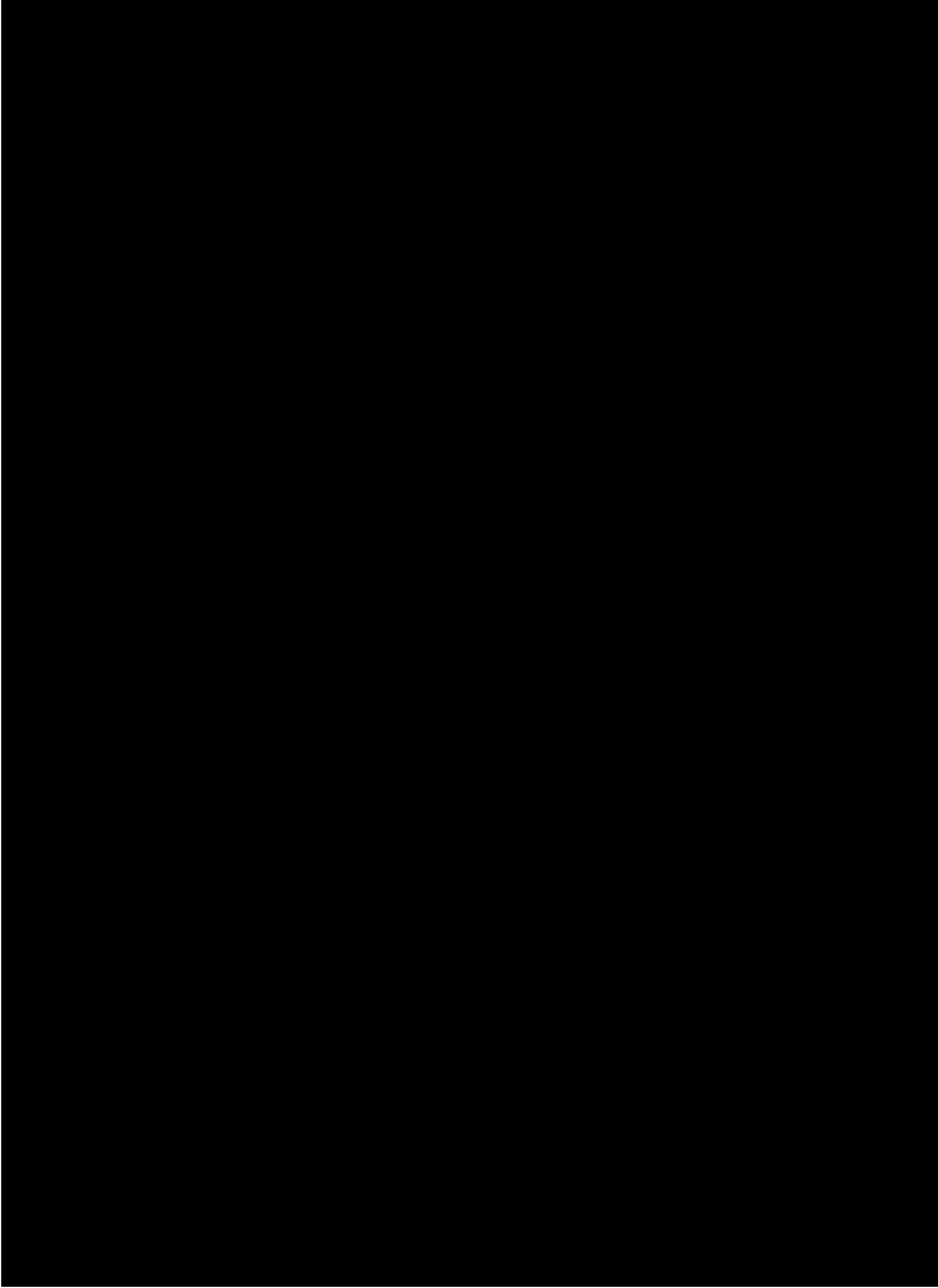
1. Username (use only your legal or preferred name)
2. Visual backgrounds
3. "Chat" boxes

To maintain a clear and uninterrupted learning space for all, you should keep your microphone muted unless invited by the instructor to speak. You should follow instructors' directions about the use of the "chat" function on remote learning platforms.

Language

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté.

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.



Week 5 (September 28 – October 2)

Lecture 10: Museums and Memory

Bennett, Tony. 1988. "[The exhibitionary complex.](#)" *New Formations* 4: 73-102.

Gardner, James. 2004. "[Contested terrain: History, museums, and the public,](#)" *The Public Historian* 26(4): 11-21.

Lecture 11: Redressing Colonial Alienation: The Role of Museums

Guest lecturer: Prof. Catherine Lu

Fanon, Franz. (2008) [1952]. "Introduction" and "The Negro and Language," in *Black skin, white masks*. London: Pluto: 1-27.

Césaire, Aimé. (2007) [1955]. "Discourse on Colonialism," in *Discourse on Colonialism* Marlborough, England: 35-46.

Week 6 (October 5-9)

Analytic Essay Due October 5

Lecture 12: Gender and Commemoration

Weresh, Melissa. 2018. "[Gauzy allegory and the construction of gender.](#)" *William and Mary Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice*, 25(1), 7-58.

Khromeychuk, Olga. 2016. "[What place for women in Ukraine's memory politics?](#)" *Open*

Week 7 (October 13-16)

Lecture 14: The Politics of Post-Communist Memory

Kubik, Jan and Michael Bernhard. 2014. "[A Theory of the Politics of Memory](#)," in Bernhard and Kubik, eds, *Twenty Years after Communism: The Politics of Memory and Commemoration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1, pp. 7-34.

Lecture 15: Post-Communist Iconoclasm and Transitional Justice

Light, Duncan and Craig Young. 2015. "[Public Memory, Commemoration, and Transitional Justice: Reconfiguring the Past in Public Space](#)." In Nedelsky and Stan, ed., *Post-Communist Transitional Justice: Lessons from Twenty-Five Years of Experience*. Cambridge University Press.

"[The Falling of the Lenins](#)." 2017. 99% Invisible Podcast, 21 March 2017.

Week 8 (October 19-23)

Lecture 16: Commemorating the Soviet Era in Post-Soviet Russia

Forest, Benjamin and Juliet Johnson. 2002. "[Unraveling the threads of history: Soviet-era monuments and post-Soviet national identity in Moscow](#)." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 92, 524-547.

Smith, Kathleen E., 2019. "[A Monument for our Times? Commemorating Victims of Repression in Putin's Russia](#)." *Europe-Asia Studies*, 71(8), pp.1314-1344.

Lecture 17: [Holocaust Remembrance after Communism](#) (Subotic Talk at NYU Jordan Center)

Subotic, Jelena. 2019. "The Politics of Holocaust Remembrance after Communism," Chapter 1 (pp 17-44) of *Yellow Star, Red Star: Holocaust Remembrance after Communism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Week 9 (October 26-30)

Lectures 18 and 19: Postcommunist World War II Memory Wars

Kurilla, Ivan
2015. "[World War II in European Memory](#)," r 26

Siddi, Marco. 2017. "[The Ukraine crisis and European memory politics of the Second World War.](#)" *European Politics and Society*, 18(4): 465-479

Brüggemann, Karsten and Andres Kasekamp. 2008. "[The politics of history and the "War of Monuments" in Estonia.](#)" *Nationalities papers*, 36(3): 425-448.

Er ss, Ágnes, 2016. [In memory of victims": Monument and counter-monument in Liberty Square, Budapest.](#) *Hungarian Geographical Bulletin*, 65(3): 237-254.

