

**Syllabus for History 294-02**  
**Remembering the Modern City**  
**Macalester College, Spring 2010**  
**M 1:10-4:10, THEATRE 205**

**Professor:** Ernesto Capello ([ecapello@macalester.edu](mailto:ecapello@macalester.edu))  
Office: Old Main 302 (x6772)  
Office Hours: T, W 1:00-2:00 and by appt.

**Preceptor:** Jemma Brown ([jbrown10@macalester.edu](mailto:jbrown10@macalester.edu))

**Overview**

This class interrogates the role that memory and history played in the formation of modern urban landscapes and identities during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. By reviewing theoretical literature, case-studies, and archival research, we will treat the layering of metahistorical significance upon urban sites and the relationship of this process to local, regional, and national identities. We will be especially attuned to the role of state actors, historic preservationists, and heritage tourism in this process. Finally, we shall consider moments when subaltern populations have contested and challenged the official memoryscapes of their cities.

Our readings will incorporate a global framework, reviewing examples from cities across Europe, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East. We shall also incorporate a specifically local perspective by examining the memory landscapes of the Twin Cities. This will necessitate attention to local preservation and heritage tourism along with an extended discussion of the role of memory as a critical player in contemporary discussions of social justice. In particular, we will be studying the memory of the mid-century decimation of three crucial neighborhoods: Rondo (St. Paul), the West Side Flats (St. Paul), and the Gateway District (Minneapolis' former Skid Row).

**Readings**

The following books have been ordered for the Macalester bookstore and will be placed on reserve in the library.

Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities* (Harvest Books; 1978)  
Anthony J. Stanonis, *Creating the Big Easy* (Georgia 2006).  
M. Christine Boyer, *The City of Collective Memory* (MIT 1996).  
Evelyn Fairbanks, *Days of Rondo* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1990).  
Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City* (Vintage 2006)  
Svetlana Boym, *The Future of Nostalgia* (Basic Books, 2002)

## Moodle

The course moodle site includes the course syllabus and acts as a repository for electronic copies of readings and further prompts. Access moodle at <http://moodle.macalester.edu/>, and login with your Macalester username and password. Once you have logged in, click on the course link in the My Courses section (History 294-02).

## Assessment

You will be assessed on the following:

Reading Reaction/Summaries	10%
Short Essays	55%
Twin Cities Oral Report	10%
Participation	25%

<u>Reading Reaction/Summaries</u>	10%
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These consist of a 1 page summary of the thesis/theses of each week's reading, which will be graded on a distinction (DS), credit (CR)/no-credit (NC) basis. These should include a question that you think would be useful to discuss in class, which you will be expected to share in our discussion. You may miss up to three of the 13 possible summaries without penalty to your final grade. You will receive extra credit if you turn in all 13 summaries.

<u>Short Essays</u>	55%
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Your primary writing assignment for the term will be four short essays. The first two will be 3-5 pages, worth 10% each, and due 19 February and 12 March. They will ask you to provide critical responses to class materials in response to a series of prompts.

The third essay of 5-7 pages will be worth 20% of your grade and will focus upon one of our three Twin Cities memoryscape case studies and will require you to conduct some original research into the memory of your neighborhood at the Minnesota History Center. To facilitate your research, you will be divided into three research teams charged with reviewing the history and remembrance of each example. One person will be charged with examining the original episode, one with considering the politics of remembrance in planning endeavors, and one with reviewing the cultural and artistic facets of memory. Each research team (which will be assigned by Prof. Capello) will be charged with dividing duties appropriately, resulting in three essays on these topics, due April 23. You will receive archival support/training from Ms. Brown but will be expected to conduct your own research as well. Limited bus passes and photocopies will be funded (details tba.)

Your fourth essay (4-6 pgs, 15%) will ask you to respond to synthetic prompts. It will serve in lieu of a final exam and will be due May 8.

### Twin Cities Oral Report

10%

Based on your Twin Cities memoryscape essays, your research group will prepare an oral report that summarizes your findings. This report should incorporate elements of each individual paper, be presented by all members of the team, include a powerpoint component, and be limited to 20 minutes. The oral reports will be given April 19.

### Participation

25%

Class participation will be a critical component of your grade. Since our class meets only once a week, it is imperative that you attend and come prepared, having done all the readings in order to contribute to discussions. Twice during the term you will be asked to facilitate discussion. Once, you will be responsible for a portion of the weekly readings and once you will be conducting a workshop presentation of an archival document in conjunction with Ms. Brown. Schedules and further details will be distributed during our second meeting.

### **Site Visits**

We will be conducting three site visits outside of class time over the course of the semester, to the Minnesota History Center, the Rondo Community Library, and the Mill City Museum. These will occur on the following Friday afternoons: February 26 (Mill City), March 26 (Rondo), and April 2 (Minnesota History Center), the first two in conjunction with History 394 (Public History). Please contact Prof. Capello about potential conflicts.

### **Writing Assignment Format**

All your writing assignments must be formatted properly – double spaced, 12 point font, page numbers. You should cite your sources and should use one of the following formats: Chicago Style, APA, or MLA. I suggest you use the format that is most proper to your own major discipline (i.e., literary scholars use MLA, historians use Chicago, psychologists use APA, etc.) Guidelines for citations in each format can be easily found online or via the reference desk at the Dewitt Wallace Library.

### **Lateness Policy**

Papers should be uploaded to the course Moodle Site by 4:30 pm on their due date. Summaries can also be handed in during class but cannot be turned in after their due date. **Emailed papers will not be accepted – they get lost, go astray, etc.... no exceptions!**

### **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Be sure that your written work reflects your own ideas and be sure to properly attribute the work of others. For guidelines on how to avoid plagiarism, see <http://www.maclester.edu/max/writinghandbook/plagiarism.html>.

## Readings:

### Unit I – Cities of Collective Memory

25 January – Cities and Memory: an Opening Conversation  
- Calvino, *Invisible Cities*

1 February – Cities of Collective Memory  
Boyer, *The City of Collective Memory*, 1-70  
Halbwachs, *Collective Memory* selections  
Nora, *Realms of Memory* (intro)

8 February – The City as a Work of Art  
Boyer, 130-201  
Schorske, *Fin-de-Siecle Vienna* selections  
Olsen, “City as a Work of Art”

15 February – Traditions and Commemoration  
Boyer, 294-364  
Hobsbawm, *The Invention of Tradition* (intro)  
Agulhon, “Paris from East to West”  
Loewen, *Lies Across America* selections

19 February – Paper 1 Due

### Unit II – Heritage, Preservation, Tourism

22 March – Historic Preservation  
Boyer, 367-420  
Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* selections  
Millett, *Lost Twin Cities* selections

26 February – Mill City Museum Site Visit

1 March – Heritage Tourism I  
Stanonis *Creating the Big Easy*, 1-169

8 March – Heritage Tourism II  
Stanonis *Creating the Big Easy*, 170-end  
Bautès, “Exclusion and Election in Udaipur”  
Scarpaci, *Plazas and Barrios* selections

12 March – Paper 2 Due

15 March – Spring Break

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### Unit III – Writing the City of Memory

22 March – Cities and History

Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City*

26 March – Rondo Community Library Site Visit

29 March – Neighborhoods

Fairbanks, *Days of Rondo*

Cavett, *Voices of Rondo* selections

2 April – Minnesota History Center Site Visit

5 April – Movements

Poniatowska, *Massacre in Mexico* selections

Carey, *Plaza of Sacrifices* selections

### Unit IV – Trauma, Nostalgia, Kitsch

12 April –Holocaust Memorials

Young, *The Texture of Memory*

Cole, *Selling the Holocaust*

Goldman, “Israeli Holocaust Memorial Strategies”

19 April – Disaster Tourism

Hartnell, “Katrina Tourism and a Tale of Two Cities”

Lisle, “Gazing at Ground Zero”

Sturken, *Tourists of History* selections

Twin Cities Presentations

23 April – Paper 3 Due

26 April – Nostalgia & Kitsch

Boym, *The Future of Nostalgia*, xiii-218

3 May – Wrap-Up

Boym, 219-end

Boyer, 421-end

8 May – Paper 4 Due