



Curating the Holocaust

Tami Rich, tamirich18@gmail.com

Course Overview:

This course is designed to provide students with basic curatorial skills for working in both Holocaust Museums and Heritage Sites. Comprised of 2 modules, theoretical and practical, students will be given the opportunity to study the academic components of Museum Studies, and subsequently, translate their historical knowledge into practical skills within Museum spaces and Heritage Sites.

The course will place a strong emphasis on Holocaust Museums in particular. We will explore the birth of Holocaust museums in the 20th Century and how they have evolved; didactically, architecturally and advancements in educational directives through museum spaces. Furthermore, students will assess how audiences in future generations will engage Holocaust Sites and museums.

Academic components of the course explore a variety subject including Heritage Interpretation, Understanding Significance, Collections Management & Object Care, Building Memorials, Intangible Heritage and Shared Heritage. Practical components of the course will include an in-depth assessment of curatorial styles used in Holocaust museums and memorials in Israel and abroad. We will delve into the details of current Holocaust memorial design and its impact on 21st Century memorialization. Finally, we will explore the effects of the current trend in removal and destruction of monuments globally.

Course Requirements:

- Weekly Readings: Students will be required to read the set texts for each component of the course.
- Class Participation: Active attendance in at least ten weeks of the course is required.
- Yom Hashoah Presentation: Students will be required to give a 5-10 minute presentation to the class.
- Significance Statement - artefact Assessment. 1 Page document
- Debate - Final Assessment will be a formal Oral Debate in class.

Assessment:

Class attendance / participation - 5%

Significance Statement - 15%

Debate - 20%

Memorial Presentation - 20%

Options available to write the following in this course:

- Referat paper, theme or idea-based research - 10 pages.
- Seminar Paper, Original research - 30 pages.

Weekly topics (see reading list below)

March 11th	Course Outline – Expectations and Projects. Birth of museums, and creation of Holocaust Museums “Sites of Pain and Shame”
March 18th	Heritage Interpretation \ teaching difficult histories
March 25th	Differences and similarities between Museums and Heritage Sites. Spaces of Difficult Heritage
April 15th	Significance – how to determine Significance of a site / event / artefact individual
April 29th	Continuation of Significance How do we interpret the space Visitor experience
May 6th	Continuation of Visitor experience
May 13th	Building Memorials – distinguishing between educating and memorializing
May 20th	Holocaust Memorials Classifications of Memorials Design, Use and Meaning of Memorials
May 27th	Guest Speaker Lizzy Elsby
June 3rd	Designing Holocaust Memorials in the 21 st Century Memorial Design competition Analysis of current Holocaust Memorial Design. Breakdown of 21st Century approaches to; design, politics and implementation of Holocaust Memorials
June 10th	Presentation of current Memorial Design Projects Breakdown of current Holocaust Memorial designs internationally. Critique of strengths and weaknesses in contemporary designs. Destruction of Monuments and memorials throughout history Downfall of monuments in 2020 and potential impact on future Holocaust Memorials
June 17th	The Grand Debate

Required Readings

March 11th

Logan & Reeves. "Places of Pain and Shame. Dealing With Difficult Heritage." [Routledge, New York, 2011] page 1-14 "Introduction."

March 18th

Tilden, F. "Interpreting Our Heritage" Third Edition. [University of North Carolina Press, 1977] Part 1.

March 25th

Rose, J. "Interpreting Difficult History at Museums and Historic Sites" [Roman & Littlefield, 2016], Pages 14-21.

April 15th

Williams, P. "Memorial Museums. The Global Rush to Commemorate Atrocities" [Berg Publishers, UK, 2007] Pages 25-50 "The Surviving Object: Presence and Absence in Memorial Museums."

April 29th

Rose, J. "Interpreting Difficult History at Museums and Historic Sites" [Roman & Littlefield, 2016] page 78 -95 "Five R's."

Williams, P. "Memorial Museums. The Global Rush to Commemorate Atrocities." [Berg Publishers, UK, 2007] Pages 77-104 "Rocks and Hard Places: Location and Spatiality in Memorial Museums," Pages 181-192 "Fighting the Forgetful Future."

May 6th

Rose, J. "Interpreting Difficult History at Museums and Historic Sites" [Roman & Littlefield, 2016] page 117 -132 "Narratives."

Rose, J. "Interpreting Difficult History at Museums and Historic Sites" [Roman & Littlefield, 2016] page 34 – 48 "Risks of Interpreting Difficult Histories."

May 13th

Logan & Reeves. "Places of Pain and Shame. Dealing With Difficult Heritage." [Routledge, New York, 2011] "Auschwitz – Birkenau. The Challenges of Heritage Management Following the Cold War." Page 50 -67. By Katie Young.

Young, J. "The Texture of Memory." [Yale University Press, 1993]. Page 263-282. Chapter 10 "When a Day Remembers: A Performative History of Yom Hashoah."

May 20th

Stevens & Franck. "Memorials as Spaces of Engagement. Design, Use and Meaning." [Routledge NY, 2016] Pages 11-33 "From Viewing to Engaging."

Tolia-Kelly, Waterton and Watson. "Heritage, Affect and Emotion. Politics, Practices and Infrastructures" [Routledge NY, 2017] Pages 75-92 "Affect and the Politics of Testimony in Holocaust Museums" By Cooke & Frieze.

May 27th

Young, J. “The Texture of Memory. Holocaust Memorials and Meaning” [Yael University Press, 1993] Page 27-48 “The Countermonument: Memory against Itself in Germany.”

Stevens & Franck. “Memorials as Spaces of Engagement. Design, Use and Meaning.” [Routledge NY, 2016] Pages 139-162. “Interpreting.”

June 3rd

Stevens & Franck. “Memorials as Spaces of Engagement. Design, Use and Meaning.” [Routledge NY, 2016] pages 192-218 “Planning.”

Yad Vashem. “Yad Vashem. Moshe Safdie - The Architecture of Memory.” Yad Vashem Publications 2011.

Frihammar & Silverman. “Heritage of Death. Landscapes of Emotion, Memory and Practice.” [Routledge NY, 2018] pages 195-208 “Death Everywhere.”

June 10th

LJ Smith, “Emotional Heritage. Visitor Engagement at Museums and Heritage Sites. Visitor Engagement at Museums and Heritage Sites.” [Routledge NY, 2021] pages 240-258 “Intergenerational Communication and Connection.”

McRainey & Russick. “Connecting Kids to History With Museum Exhibitions” [Left Coast Press California, 2010] Chapter 11 page 241-256 “Is It Real? Kids and Collections.”

Extra Resources

Lord and Piacente. “Manual of Museum Exhibitions” Second Edition. [Rowman & Littlefield UK, 2014] Chapter 2 page 7 -18 “Purpose of Museum Exhibitions.”

Alivizatou. “Intangible Heritage And The Museum. New Perspectives on Cultural Preservation”. [UCL Institute of Archaeology Critical Cultural Heritage Series 8] West Coast Press. Walnut Creek, California, 2012. Chapter 8. “Rethinking Cultural Preservation, Museum Curation and Communities.” Page 189 -192.

Reynolds, D. “Postcards From Auschwitz. Holocaust Tourism and the Meaning of Remembrance” [New York University Press, 2018] pages 29-70. “Listening to Auschwitz.”

Harel Dorit. “Facts and Feelings. Dilemmas in Designing the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum.”

Yad Vashem Publishing. 2010 Pages 16-20 “Content and Form, Form and Content: Fundamental Questions in Planning the Museum [16-20].

Lord and Piacente. “Manual of Museum Exhibitions” Second Edition. [Rowman & Littlefield UK, 2014] Page 269 – 280 “Collection, Research and Exhibition Text”
Yad Vashem. “Yad Vashem. Moshe Safdie - The Architecture of Memory.” Yad Vashem Publications 201.