Globalization, Memory & Visual Culture

Location: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course: MCC-GE.2380 Section 099 Topics in Globalization – 4 points

Dates: January 2 – 20, 2018

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Course Description:
This course examines the intersections of global visual culture and cultural memory, with a particular focus on the tensions that arise between the largely national tendencies of cultural memory and the global circulation of cultural meaning. We will focus on the ways that the nation, colonialism, and globalization have been enacted through visual culture and cultural memory with a particular focus on Argentina, in comparison to other national contexts.

The course provides an overview of contemporary theoretical engagements with cultural memory, visual culture, and consumerism, looking at the role played by discourses of memory in changing concepts of nation and globalization. The course will begin by examining how cultural memory and memorialization have been deployed in the context of the nation, looking in particular at how national memory has been constructed in Argentina. How cultural memory is enacted through visual culture will be a key theme of the course, looking at memorials, museums, artistic projects, design, and architecture as central to how cultural memory is shaped. We will situate these projects in relation to the memory industry and global consumer economy, through which cultural memory is packaged, branded, and consumed. These intersections—memory, visual culture, consumerism, nationalism, colonialism, and globalization—will frame our inquiries.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop a richer, more complex, theoretically-grounded understanding of memory studies
2. Understand the role of memory in national and globalized visual cultures
3. Understand the shift from citizen-based understandings of national memory to consumer-based conceptions of culture and memory.
4. Further develop the capacity to analyze the individual, collective and institutional practices of conservation, preservation, construction and display of history and heritage and understand their role in the construction of cultural, social and political identity.
**Required Texts:**
Readings will be distributed on NYU Classes in PDF format.

**Absence Policy/ Participation:**
Active Participation is required for this class, which will meet every day (Monday-Friday) for 3 weeks. It is by design an intensive class experience. Students are required to attend all seminars, to undertake the reading assignments seriously, and to participate fully in seminar discussions. You should come to class prepared to discuss the readings. If you have to miss a class due to an emergency, be sure to get a classmate’s notes. More than 2 excused absences will affect your final grade.

**Assignments & Evaluation:**
Assignments include
We will have a class blog/wiki for shared write-ups of course issues and materials. Evaluations of students’ performance will be made on the basis of participation in class discussion (10%), **five** short write-ups related to class materials and visits, three of which must be posted on the class blog (50%) and a final research paper (40%). A brief proposal with short bibliography for the final project will be due on Wednesday of Week 2 (June 12).

**Course write-ups and course blog posts:** you will be required to write a total of **five** (5) "write-ups". **Two** (2) write-ups will be **reading response papers** due on Monday June 10 and Monday June 17. The reading responses should engage **critically** with one or more of the course readings. The remaining **three** (3) 'write-ups' will take the form of blog posts, drawing on class field trips, media events and your own critical explorations of "globalization, memory & visual culture". Blog posts should also incorporate and **critically** engage with theories, figures, and concepts presented in the readings and the lectures. Blog posts may also include images and digital artifacts. The course blog should become a rich textual/visual record of our collective exploration of globalization, memory & visual culture.

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**
Academic integrity is the guiding principle for all that you do in the university, from taking exams to making oral presentations to writing papers. It requires that you recognize and acknowledge information derived from others and take credit only for ideas and work that are yours.

You violate the principle of academic integrity when you
• cheat on an exam,
• submit the same work for two different courses without prior permission from your professors,
• receive help on a take-home examination that calls for independent work, or
• plagiarize.

Plagiarism, one of the gravest forms of academic dishonesty in university life, whether intended or not, is academic fraud. In a community of scholars, whose members are teaching, learning, and discovering knowledge, plagiarism cannot be tolerated.
Plagiarism is failure to properly assign authorship (whether intended or not) to a paper, a document, an oral presentation, a musical score, and/or other materials that are not your
original work. Please take this policy seriously. Plagiarism can result in failure of the class.

**Daily Schedule**

January 2 – Students arrive independently throughout the day, check in to program housing, welcome dinner.

January 3 – 19 - Students will explore the topic through a variety of classroom lectures, guest speakers, and site visits throughout Buenos Aires. Exact activities to be announced. Students may have 1 or 2 free days for independent exploration.

January 20 – Students check out of housing in the morning, travel home independently.