This is a graduate seminar on the history of social memory in the twentieth-century Euro-American world. The course has two goals: to acquaint students with recent scholarship on how and why states and social groups have constructed "public" memories in contemporary history; and to have students write a paper of 25-30 typed, double-spaced pages exploring social memory in a specific historical context. After considering the concept of social memory, the course focuses on two important "sites" of memory, cinema/television and monuments, and then on the memory of two events, the Holocaust and Vichy France. For most of the semester, we will discuss required and recommended readings. Each week several students will be responsible for circulating discussion questions pertaining to the required reading. The last four sessions are devoted to student presentations of papers.

*indicates required reading

1. Introduction (January 19)

2. Memory as a Historical Concept (January 26, February 2, 9)

Maurice Halbwachs, The Collective Memory (trans.)
David Carr, Time, Narrative, and History, 153-185
Michel Foucault, Language, Counter-Memory, Practice (trans.), 113-196
*David Lowenthal, The Past is a Foreign Country, xv-xxvii, 3-259
3. Memory, Cinema, and Television (February 16, 23)

"AHR Forum [on Oliver Stone’s JFK]," The American Historical Review 97, 2 (April 1992): 487-511
"AHR Forum [on portraying history on film]," The American Historical Review 93, 5 (December 1988): 1173-1227
Ilan Avisar, Screening the Holocaust: Cinema’s Images of the Unimaginable
Judith E. Doneson, The Holocaust in American Film
Paul Friedlander, Reflections of Nazism: An Essay on Kitsch and Death, ch. on Syberberg
Annette Insdorf, Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust
*Anton Kaes, From Hitler to Heimat: The Return of History as Film (trans.)
Rudy Koschar, "Hitler--A Film from Germany: Cinema, History, and Structures of Feeling," article ms
*George Lipsitz, Time Passages: Collective Memory and American Popular Culture, 39-96, 163-207
Sonya Michel, "Feminism, Film, and Public History," Presenting the Past: Essays on History and the Public, eds., Susan Porter Benson, et al., 293-304
Eric L. Santner, Stranded Objects: Mourning, Memory, and Film in Postwar Germany

4. Memory, Monuments, and Historic Sites (March 2, 16, 23)

Maurice Agulhon, Marianne au Combat: l’Imagerie et la Symbolique Républicaine de 1789 à 1880
Richard Handler, Nationalism and the Politics of Culture in Quebec, 140-158
Robert Hewison, The Heritage Industry: Britain in a Climate of Decline
***********, "Building Pastes: Historic Preservation and Identity in Twentieth Century Germany," article ms
---------, "Memorv as Luxury," chapter ms from Transient Pasts: Preservation and Identity in Twentieth-Century Germany

*David Lowenthal, The Past is a Foreign Country, 263-412
*George Mosse, Fallen Soldiers: Reshaping the Memory of the World Wars, 3-11, 14-50, 70-156, 201-225
Antoine Prost, Les Anciens Combattants et la Société Française, 1914-1939
Patrick Wright, On Living in an Old Country: The National Past in Contemporary Britain
James F. Young, "The Biography of a Memorial Icon: Nathan Rapoport’s Warsaw Ghetto Monument," Representations 26 (Spring 1989): 91-121

5. Two Events: the Holocaust and Vichy France (March 30, April 6)

Peter Baldwin, Reworking the Past: Hitler, The Holocaust, and the Historians’ Debate
Karl Dietrich Bracher, The German Dictatorship (trans.)
Saul Friedlander, ed., Probing the Limits of Representation: Nazism and the "Final Solution"
Raul Hilberg, The Destruction of the European Jews
H.R. Kedward, Occupied France: Collaboration and Resistance 1940-1944
Luisa Passerini, Fascism in Popular Memory: The Cultural Experience of the Turin Working Class
*Charles Maier, The Unmasterable Past: History, Holocaust, and German National Identity
Robert Paxton, Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order 1940-1944
Detlev Peukert, Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity, Opposition, and Racism in Everyday Life (trans.)
*Henry Rousso, The Vichy Syndrome: History and Memory in France since 1944 (trans.)

6. Student presentations (April 13, 20, 27, and May 4)

PAPER DUE DURING SUMMARY PERIOD