Course Description: Europe 1910-2000  This graduate-only seminar will focus on themes of cultural heritage preservation in Europe during the 20th century, more specifically the impact of the two world wars and the Balkans conflict of the 1990s. We will examine the protection of cultural objects in preparation for war, the damage and destruction of patrimony during war, the looting of portable heritage, and various responses to looting, damage and destruction. The responses will include: the documentation of damage in written reports and photographs; approaches to the recovery and restitution of looted objects; the stages of repair, restoration and reconstruction to art and the built environment; the development of legal agreements and heritage organizations to curb the destruction and looting of cultural objects during conflict; as well as other more emotional and poignant human responses to loss. Among the readings will be extracts from war diaries to provide a sense of how individuals lived amidst the destruction.

While the material to be examined does not include what is happening today to cultural objects as a consequence of armed conflict in areas of the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, numerous precedents were set during the years we will be considering.

Course Requirements  A detailed course outline will be available in the first class, though there will be flexibility to adapt to your interests as graduate students. The course will involve in-class projects, group discussions, student presentations and writing assignments. Each graduate student will have a strong say in choosing their major research project for the seminar.