DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY &
ART CONSERVATION

Winter Term 2020

ARTH 860/3.0
Cultural Heritage Preservation I:
Europe 1910-2000

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Cathleen Hoeniger
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This graduate seminar will focus on cultural heritage preservation in Europe during the 20th century, charting the enormous impact of the two world wars (1914-18 and 1939-45) and the Balkans Conflict (1990s). We will examine the protection of treasures of cultural patrimony in preparation for war, the damage and destruction of stationary monuments during war, and the confiscation or theft of portable works of art and antiquities. Among the responses to heritage damage that we will consider are: the documentation of damage in written reports and photographs, attempts to recover looted objects, approaches to the repair and reconstruction of art and buildings, the development of legal agreements and heritage organizations to curb cultural destruction and looting, and emotional responses to cultural loss, both personal and collective. The readings will include extracts from war diaries and novels to provide a sense of how individuals lived amidst the destruction. Although the material under inquiry does not encompass more immediate events of cultural damage in the world today, as a by-product of armed conflicts in areas of the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, Central and Southern Asia, and Africa, numerous precedents were set during the years we will study.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
The course outline will be available in the first class. The coursework will involve readings, in-class projects, group discussions, student presentations, library research and writing assignments. Each graduate student will undertake a major research project for the seminar, which will result in an essay of about 15 pages. Attendance is mandatory for all classes.