Course Description: This seminar will examine aspects of cultural heritage preservation in Europe during the 20th century, charting the impact of the two world wars (1914-18 and 1939-45) and the Balkans Conflict of the 1990s. We will examine the protection of cultural objects in preparation for war, the damage and destruction of monuments during war, and the looting of works of art. Among the responses to heritage damage to be considered are: the documentation of damage in written reports and photographs, attempts to recover looted objects, approaches to the restoration of art and buildings, the development of legal agreements and heritage organizations to curb destruction and looting, and more emotional responses to cultural loss. 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 what is happening today as a by-product of armed conflicts in countries including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Yemen, numerous precedents were set during the years under consideration.

Course Requirements: The syllabus will be available at the beginning of the course. The assignments will involve: readings and discussions, in-class projects, oral presentations, library and on-line research, and written assignments.