

# GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

## GPY 401- Honours Seminar in Human Geography: Place(ing) Memory- identity, memory, landscape



<b>Contact Time</b>	2x 1.5h seminars/week
<b>Format</b>	Combined lectures, active learning, and group discussion
<b>Class Assessment</b>	Attendance & participation- 10% (0.5%/class- capped at 10%) Critical reading brief (one-page reading note and discussion facilitation)- 20% Short reflection assignments- 40% (8% each) Memory landscape case study- 30%

### COURSE OVERVIEW

How do places hold our stories, our histories, and our collective memories? Welcome to an exploration of the relationship between place and memory. In this course, we'll examine how memory practices shape the landscapes we live in, and how the narratives they communicate contribute to our personal and collective geographic imaginaries. We'll navigate the contours of national memory, and the power structures that shape what we remember, and what we deliberately forget. We'll look at everyday places of personal and urban memory alongside grand memoryscapes and monuments, investigating their creation and interpretation. We'll dig into resistance and counter-memory, exploring how individuals and communities challenge and reimagine public memory. From graffiti to ghosts we will explore special contemporary and historical topics in urban geography and memory studies, including Disneyfication and tourism towns, toppling monuments and the influence of colonial memory, and how we remember difficult histories like pandemic loss or violent conflict. With an emphasis on critical thinking and active learning, we will discover how memory permeates the places around us. Our course materials will include academic literature alongside multimedia including music, visual art, and literature.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the interconnection of place and memory, and the role of our geographic imaginations in place-making and shaping ways of remembering.
2. Recognize and articulate the role of power in the creation, representation, and contestation of memory in urban landscapes.
3. Comprehend and discuss critical geographic theory related to colonialism, race, and memory studies, with reference to academic literature, through written and verbal formats.
4. Apply analytical skills to real-world examples of memory landscapes, including monuments, historical sites, and everyday places.

### COURSE TOPICS

Select course topics include:

- Official histories and national memory.
- Forgetting, ignorance, and performances of regret.
- Tourism, Disneyfication, and the commodification of memory places.
- Commemoration and conflict, how we remember difficult histories.
- Hauntings, countermemory, and resistance.
- Remembering and the natural world.

**COURSE READINGS-** Course materials include a mix of web sources and multimedia formats alongside academic literature.

Sample readings:

- Cameron, E. (2008). Cultural geographies essay: Indigenous spectrality and the politics of postcolonial ghost stories. *cultural geographies*, 15(3), 383-393.
- Mackey, E. (2012). *Tricky myths: Settler pasts and landscapes of innocence*. In Neatby & Hodgins, Eds. *Settling and unsettling memories: Essays in Canadian public history*, p. 310-339.
- Moulton, A. (2021). Black monument matters: Place-based commemoration and abolitionist memory work. *Sociology Compass*, 15(12), e12944.
- Souther, J. (2007). The Disneyfication of New Orleans: The French Quarter as Facade in a Divided City. *The Journal of American History*, 94(3), 804-811.