Public Memory & History
Hist 5344 | CRN # 36185
Tues. 6:30-9:20 pm
Dr. Nancy Berlage
Spring 2017

Counts as Traditional or Public History Credits

This seminar will help participants develop understanding of the relationship between public memory and history. We will examine the production and consumption of public memory, as well as the interplay with power relations. For example, why are some events commemorated and not others? How does the memory of the past get used in the present and to what purposes? What is the relationship between national identity and public memory? We will focus on dominant themes, debates, and seminal works. We will investigate these issues through historical studies that cross the boundaries of nation and time. Our readings focus on the twentieth century and America, but they are also chosen to inform your study into other temporal and geographical locations. The aim of the course is to engage with approaches, concepts, and methods for incorporating public memory into public history practice, as well as historical research in general.

Recurrent Themes Include:
- Individual and Collective Memory as History
- Memorialization and Commemoration
- Oral History and Public Memory
- Politicization of Historical Memory

Requirements:
This seminar requires active discussion. Participants will write a review essay, a paper, and complete other projects and written assignments.