ARH 4931: Undergraduate Seminar: Asian Monuments and Heritage Management
University of Florida, Spring 2014—Section 0387
Time: Tuesday Period 3-5 (9:35 am -12:35 pm)
Classroom: FAC Room 116

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday Period 3 (9:35-10:25 am) and by appointment

Description:
Defined as the physical remains of human activity of the past, cultural heritage, tangible or intangible, movable or immovable, have played important roles in the formation of social memory and cultural identity. The vast collections of Asian art in the Western museums and such monuments as the Great Wall of China, the Ise Shrine of Japan, the archaeological sites in Korea, the Taj Mahal in India, the war memorials in Vietnam, and Angkor Wat in Southeast Asia, stir up connotations and images that often mixed fantasy with fact. How and why were these structures and objects made in the first place? What caused them to rise in the popular imagination as symbols of both national identity and cultural otherness? This course will focus on the history of Western collection of Asian art and the histories of several well-known Asian monuments in order to explore both their origins and the factors behind their rise as cultural icons, and the different approaches to their evaluation and preservation. Topics include: 1) the role of memorial monument, especially as a contested and mutable site; 2) the public presentation and representation of cultural heritage; 3) the international and national charters and guideline and the UNESCO World Heritage movement; 4) the debates over the Western and Eastern differences in heritage conservation; 5) the social and political process and the roles of such social categories as gender and ethnicity in the making of monuments. Coursework will consist mainly of writing assignments and in-class presentations.

Objectives:
This course will introduce students to the theories and basic issues in the studies of monuments and the history of collecting of Asian art, and provide them with a solid grounding in both the theories and practices of historic preservation and collecting history so that students can reach a better understanding of the artistic, social, and political elements in the making and understanding of Asian art and Asian monuments. The emphasis will lie in student’s ability to grasp basic concepts in the heritage conservation as practiced in Asia and in the West, to discuss and analyze critically the policies, attitudes, and visual presentations related to Asian art and monuments.

Requirements and grading:
1. Punctual attendance of class meetings; readings according to the schedule set forth in this syllabus, to be completed before attending class, and participation in class discussions and class presentations (30%) and informal responses to each week’s readings (15%);
2. A midterm research paper (8-10 pages, 20%);
3. A final research paper on a topic different from the first (10-15 pages; 35%).

For graduate students: a longer final paper (15-20 page), or to do an appropriate final project to be decided in consultation with the instructor. Graduate students may assign additional readings and other assignments related to their research topic.

The class meetings will consist of lectures and seminar-style discussions on specific topics. These meetings will form the core of the course material so it is strongly advised that you attend class consistently. All students are expected to participate in class discussions and turn in assignments on time. Papers are due IN CLASS on the day specified in the schedule. All papers should be printed, standard, and double-spaced. No papers will be accepted over email.

Attendance is necessary; much of the material will only be presented in class lectures and discussions. You are responsible for keeping up with the material and for getting notes for missed classes. A student’s class participation grade will be evaluated not according to the amount of talking that student does, but rather according to whether that student contributes thoughtfully and constructively, based on a careful consideration of the class readings. Obviously, students cannot contribute to class discussion if they are absent; consequently, repeated unexcused absences will be reflected in their participation grade.

Make-up tests, extensions, and incomplete grade will be given ONLY in cases of emergencies or serious illnesses with proper documentation. In all other cases (family obligations, religious holidays, disabilities etc.), extensions may be granted if I am informed well BEFORE the deadline.

Adherence to codes of academic honesty is expected on all assignments and in all testing situations. Cheating and Plagiarism are obviously forbidden. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Reading Reports:
The purpose of the informal reading reports is to help you think through the articles while reading it, and to prepare you for class discussion. The basic structure should be first a summary of the gist (the basic structure) of the article; then your comments, responses, and questions (and prepare the questions in a thoughtful way so that you can discuss and answer them in class). The articles are available on the e-learning course reserve website. Hand in the informal reading reports after each class discussion (2-3 pages, single spaced is ok).

Required Texts:
Course Reading reserved on the library reserve and e-learning website.
Weekly schedule (readings marked with a star* are reserved in e-learning website)

Week 1 (1/7). Introduction: Overview of the class; in search of traditions: modernity and cultural heritage in Asia.
Week 2 (1/14). The meeting of the East and West in heritage conservation; Orientalism and the antiquities rush.

Week 3 (1/21). What is a monument? Different notions of monuments and monumentality. Is it still possible to have monuments in the modern world?
The Vietnam Veteran Memorial; the WWII Memorial; the 9/11 memorial; the remembering of the Vietnam War in Vietnam; Vietnam War Memorial-Maya Lin (video)

Week 4 (1/28). The invention of historic monument; the discourse of heritage.

Week 5 (2/4). The changing meanings of monuments: The Great Wall of China; the Ise Shrine of Japan; The Taj Mahal of India.

Week 6 (2/11). How to preserve? Rethinking the Venice charter and the debates
*Wim Denslagen. “Restoration Theories, East and West.” Transaction of the Association


Visit the UNESCO Website: http://www.unesco.org/whc/heritage.htm for more information on the World Heritage Movement.


Unidroit Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.

Week 7 (2/18). Authenticity in heritage conservation:


Week 8 (2/25). Is there a Chinese attitude toward the past?


Mid-term paper due.

Spring break 3/1-9.

Week 9 (3/11). Western hegemony in cultural heritage management:


Byrne, Denis. “Western Hegemony in Archaeological Heritage Management.” History and
Kwanda, Timoticin. “Western Conservation Theory and the Asian Context: The Different Roots of Conservation.” In: International Conference on Heritage in Asia: Converging Forces and Conflicting Values, 8-10 January 2009, the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

Week 10 (3/18). Asian Heritage Management

Week 11 (3/25). The heritage in the city of Beijing:

Week 12 (4/1). The heritage conservation movement in modern China:

Week 13 (4/8). Who Owns Antiquity? The art of the steal.

Week 14 (4/15). Heritage Management in Korea and Japan

Week 15 (4/22). Student Presentations on their final research project.

Final paper due on the day of the final exam.