

INLS 690-241 National Archives: Politics, Memory, and Public History

Instructor	Course Overview
Sumayya Ahmed	<p>Welcome! In this course we will explore the theoretical, social and material construction of national archives. The creation of public memory in national archives will be examined from an international perspective, looking at examples from several countries. Using case studies, it will take into consideration the role political ideas and movements (anti-colonial, for example) have played in determining what is included in (and what is excluded from) national memories and archival collections. We will also discuss the critique of national archives launched by the community archiving movement.</p> <p>Class meets October 12th -December 2nd, Monday/Wednesday, 3:35 to 4:50, Manning 014 (That's on the ground level across from the elevator).</p>
Email	
sumayya@live.unc.edu	
Office Hours/Location	
Manning Hall, by Appointment	

Goals

- Students will further their knowledge of public archives in varying national and cultural contexts.
- Students will gain an appreciation for diverse archival experiences.
- Students will further their ability to think critically in archival situations (during appraisal or accessioning for example).
- Students will be able to participate in and lead discussions on the place of politics in shaping public archive creation, collection and management.

Assignments

- **National archive website review:** In this assignment students are to write a 2-3 page review of any nation's national archive, library or museum website. Papers should discuss access, archival content, as well as layout and interface of the website. **Due by October 23rd (20%)**
- **Annotated Bibliography:** Create an annotated bibliography that explores themes discussed in class in the context of a specific national archive, library or museum, OR that looks at how a particular topic/theme is covered by materials available (or unavailable) in a specific national archive/library. **Research question that will be "answered" by the sources in your bibliography due Nov 1st.** Annotated bibliography due on December 8th. **(50%)**
- **Tweeting:** Everyone is expected to tweet at least once a week to the class account either in response to the readings or on a relevant topic/news event. You may tweet from the [class twitter account](#) if you do not have your own twitter account. (10%). For more information on twitter, please see: <https://about.twitter.com/what-is-twitter>

Class Participation

Coming to class having done the readings and prepared to participate is great! Class participation will be graded, and this includes at least one class in which you will be expected to lead or co-lead the discussion. (20%)

Class Materials:

There are no required textbooks for this class.

If you are able, feel free to purchase the books on the syllabus to facilitate your reading. I will try to provide links and scans to the readings.

Honor Code

This is not just a formality. Honesty counts and you are expected to abide by the [UNC honor code](#). There is no excuse for plagiarism.

Attendance

* This is only an eight week class, so please no absences.

Students with no previous archives experience:

INLS 556: Introduction to Archives and Records Management or an equivalent course is the RECOMMENDED prerequisite for this course. If you have not taken such a course, it is suggested that you read the following before or during the course:

Millar, L. (2010). *Archives : principles and practice*. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers.

Daniels, M. F. (1984). *A Modern archives reader : basic readings on archival theory and practice*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, U.S. General Services Administration.

Course Schedule

Readings to be done for the class date listed

Monday October 12th: ON NATIONS, NATIONALISM and HERITAGE

Gellner, E. (1983/2008) *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chapter 1 "Definitions," Chapter 5 "What is a Nation?"

Balibar, E. (1991). The Nation Form: History and Ideology. In E .Balibar & I.M. Wallerstein, *Race, nation, class: ambiguous identities*. Verso.

Hall, S. (2004). Whose heritage? Un-settling "The Heritage", re-imagining the post-nation. In J. Littler and R. Naidoo, *The politics of heritage: the legacies of 'race'* (p. 23-35). Oxford: Taylor and Francis.

Wednesday October 14th: PUBLIC MEMORY

Paul Connerton (1989), *How Societies Remember*. Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1, "Social Memory," p. 1-40.

Cook, T. (2011). Remembering the future: appraisal of records and the role of archives in constructing social memory. In F. Blouin and W. G. Rosenberg, *Archives, Documentation and Institutions of Social Memory: Essays from the Sawyer Seminar*. University of Michigan Press.

Millar, L. (2006). Touchstones: Considering the Relationship between Memory and Archives. *Archivaria* 61, 105-126.

Historical Amnesia at UNC? <http://uncsiren.com/real-silent-sam-coalition-manifesto-spring-2015/>

Optional: Josias, A. (2011). Toward an understanding of archives as a feature of collective memory. *Archival Science*, 11(1-2), 95-112.

Monday October 19th PUBLIC HISTORY

Glassberg, D. (1996). Public History and the Study of Memory. *The Public Historian* 18 (2), 7-23

Shopes, et al. (2003). "Public History, Public Historians, and the American Historical Association," *Report of the Task Force on Public History, submitted to AHA Council*, (available on the AHA website, www.historians.org)

Cook, T. (2011). The archive (s) is a foreign country: historians, archivists, and the changing archival landscape. *American Archivist*, 74(2), 600-632.

Optional:

Meringolo, D. D. (2012). *Museums, monuments, and national parks: toward a new genealogy of public history*. University of Massachusetts Press. Prologue, "A new kind of technician: in search of the culture of public history."

Wednesday Oct 21st SOUTH AFRICA

Harris, V.S. (2007). *Archives and justice: a South African perspective*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists. Intro & Chap 1, (p.1-22) , Chapters 11, 12, 13 (p.173-238)

Optional: Video - Derrida <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TswHCM2cOmg>

Monday October 26th SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUED

Harris, V.S. (2007). *Archives and justice: a South African perspective*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists. Chaps 14 through 18 (p.239-336)

Wednesday October 28th CHINA

Wong, W. S. (1976). [The development of archives and libraries in china: An historical account](#). *Libri*, 26(2), 140-155.

Bartlett, B. S. (2007). A world-class archival achievement: the People's Republic of China archivists' success in opening the Ming-Qing central-government archives, 1949–1998. *Archival Science*, 7(4), 369-390.

Mei, Du (2011). The Role of Archives in Chinese Society: An Examination from the Perspective of Access. In F. Blouin and W. G. Rosenberg , *Archives, Documentation and Institutions of Social Memory: Essays from the Sawyer Seminar*. University of Michigan Press p.427-435

Lim, L. (2014). *The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited*. Oxford University Press. Introduction + one chapter of your choice.

Optional:

Yuqing, X. (1991). Differences and similarities in Chinese and American approaches to archives. *American Archivist*, 54(2), 206-215.

Monday November 2nd EUROPE

Berger, S. (2013). The role of national archives in constructing national master narratives in Europe. *Archival Science*, 13(1), 1-22.

Bundsgaard, I. (2011) The Question of Access: The Right to Social Memory versus the Right to Social Oblivion [in Denmark]. In F. Blouin and W. G. Rosenberg (Eds.), *Archives, Documentation and Institutions of Social Memory: Essays from the Sawyer Seminar*. University of Michigan Press.

Donia, R. J. (2011). The new masters of memory: Libraries, Archives and Museums in Postcommunist Bosnia-Herzegovina. In F. Blouin and W. G. Rosenberg (Eds.), *Archives, Documentation and Institutions of Social Memory: Essays from the Sawyer Seminar* (393-401). University of Michigan Press.

Bressey, C. (2006). Invisible presence: [The whitening of the Black community in the historical imagination of British Archives](#), *Archivaria* 61, p.47-61.

Wednesday November 4th THE USA

McCoy, D.R. (1985). [The Struggle to Establish a National Archives in the United States](#) . In *Guardian of Heritage: Essays on the History of the National Archives*; Smithsonian Institution Press

Ross, R.A. (1985) [The National Archives: The Formative Years, 1934-1949](#). In *Guardian of Heritage: Essays on the History of the National Archives*; Smithsonian Institution Press

Gilliland, A. (2014). Professional, Institutional, and National Identities in Dialog: The Development of Descriptive Practices in the First Decade of the US National Archives. *Information & Culture*, 49(1), 54-73.

Klein, F. (2013). The Image of Absence: Archival Silence, Data Visualization, and James
<http://americanliterature.dukejournals.org.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/content/85/4/661.full.pdf+html>

Optional:

VIDEO - THC Classroom. Remember, Revere, Rule: "a journey inside the National Archives to see one-of-a-kind documents, and a walk through the monumental Library of Congress, America's storehouse of history."

<http://digital.films.com.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/PortalViewVideo.aspx?xtid=43129>

Monday November 9th USA Continued

Robertson, C. (2004) The archive, disciplinarily, and governing: Cultural studies and the writing of history. *Cultural Studies <=> Critical Methodologies* 4 (4), 450-471.

<http://csc.sagepub.com.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/content/4/4/450>

Jimerson, R. (2009). *Archives power: memory, accountability and social justice*. Chicago: SAA. Chapters 2 and 3, "Documenting American society" and "Resisting Political Power"

Lantzer, J.S. (2003). [The public history of Presidential libraries: how the presidency is presented to the people](#). *Journal of the Association for History and Computing* 6 (1).

Hufbauer, B. (2006). Spotlights and shadows: Presidents and their administrations in presidential museum exhibits. *The Public Historian*, 28(3), 117-132.

Optional:

America's presidential libraries : their mission and their future : joint hearing before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, first session, February 28, 2011

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-112hhrg65446/pdf/CHRG-112hhrg65446.pdf>

Greenwell, R. (1997). [The Oral History Collections of the Presidential Libraries](#). *The Journal of American History* 84 (2), 596-603.

Clark, A. (25 April 2013) Presidential libraries are huge failures. Salon.com

http://www.salon.com/2013/04/25/presidential_libraries_are_huge_failures/

Wednesday November 11th CANADA

Wilson, I. E. (1982). "A Noble Dream": The Origins of the Public Archives of Canada. *Archivaria*, 1(15), 16- 35.

Momryk, M. (2001). "National Significance": The Evolution and Development of Acquisition Strategies in the Manuscript Division, National Archives of Canada. *Archivaria*, 1(52).

Crete, J. (2011). Transnational archives: the Canadian case. *Journal of Aesthetics & Culture*, 3.

Phillips, R. B. & Phillips, M.S. (2009) Contesting time, place and nation in the First Peoples' Hall of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. In, D. Walkowitz and L.M. Knauer (Eds), *Contested histories in public space: memory, race, and nation*. Durham: Duke University Press

Monday November 16th IRAQ

Al-Tikriti, N. (2007). "Stuff Happens": A Brief Overview of the 2003 Destruction of Iraqi Manuscript Collections, Archives, and Libraries. *Library Trends*, 55(3), 730–745. doi:10.1353/lib.2007.0000

Edwards, J. B., & Edwards, S. P. (2008). Culture and the New Iraq: The Iraq National Library and Archive, 'Imagined Community,' and the Future of the Iraqi Nation. *Libraries & The Cultural Record*, 43(3), 327-342.

Eskander, S. B. (2011). [Iraq National Library and Archive: Inherited Difficulties and New Challenges](#). *Alexandria*, 22(1), 47-51.

Caswell, M. (2011). "Thank You Very Much, Now Give Them Back": Cultural Property and the Fight over the Iraqi Baath Party Records. *American Archivist*, 74(1), 211-240.

Optional:

Cox, D. (2011). National archives and international conflicts: the Society of American Archivists and war. *American Archivist*, 74(2), 451-481.

Wednesday November 18th COLONIAL & POST-COLONIAL NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Stoller, A. (2002) Colonial archives and the arts of governance. *Archival Science* 2 (1-2), 87-109.

Burke, E. (2007). The Creation of the Moroccan Colonial Archive, 1880–1930. *History and Anthropology*, 18(1), 1–9. doi:10.1080/02757200600976127

Buckley, L. (2005). Objects of Love and Decay : Colonial Photographs in a Postcolonial Archive. *Cultural Anthropology*, 20(2), 249–270.

Dritsas, L., & Haig, J. (2014). [An archive of identity: the Central African Archives and Southern Rhodesian history](#). *Archival Science*, 14(1), 35-54.

Optional:

Curtin, P. (1960). The archives of tropical Africa: a reconnaissance. *The Journal of African History* 1(1), 129–147.

Tough, A. G. (2009). Archives in sub-saharan africa half a century after independence. *Archival Science*, 9(3-4), 187-201. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10502-009-9078-1

Monday November 23rd NATIONAL MUSEUMS

Knell, S. (2011). National Museums and the National Imagination. In S. Knell, P. Aronsson and A. Bugge, *National museums: new studies from around the world* (p. 3-28). New York: Routledge

Cummins, A (1994). The "Caribbeanization" of the West Indies: the museum's role in the development of national identity. In F. Kaplan (Ed.) *Museums and the Making of "Ourselves"* 192-220. New York: Leicester University Press.

Kidd, J., Cairns, S., Drago, A., Ryall, A. & Stearn, M. (Eds). (2014). *Challenging history in the museum: international perspectives*. Burlington: Ashgate. * PICK ONE Chapter to read and teach to the class *

Hughes, R. (2005). Nationalism and memory at the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide Crimes, Phnom Penh Cambodia. In K. Hodgkin & S. Radstone, *Memory, History, Nation: Contested Pasts* (p.175-192). Transaction Publishers.

Wednesday November 25th NO CLASS, NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Monday November 30th CHALLENGING THE NATIONAL NARRATIVE: COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

Gilliland, A., & Flinn, A. (2013). Community Archives: what are we really talking about?. In *Keynote Speech delivered at the CIRN Prato Community Informatics Conference*.

http://ccnr.infotech.monash.edu/assets/docs/prato2013_papers/gilliland_flinn_keynote.pdf

Caswell M (2014) Inventing new archival imaginaries: theoretical foundations for identity-based community archives. In: Daniel D, Levi AS (eds) *Identity palimpsests: archiving ethnicity in the US and Canada*. Litwin Books, Sacramento

Flinn, Andrew. (2011). Archival Activism: Independent and Community-led Archives, Radical Public History and the Heritage Professions. *InterActions: UCLA Journal of Education and Information Studies*, 7(2), Article 6.

John Erde (2014) Constructing archives of the Occupy movement. *Archives and Records: The Journal of the Archives and Records Association*, 35:2, 77-92, DOI:10.1080/23257962.2014.943168

Wednesday December 2nd **Student presentations on paper topics**

*ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE BY December 8th