

Please note: The dates and class visits/speakers provided in this document are subject to change, regular updates will be found on the Canvas website

YAL1 - The Sustainable Preservation of Cultural Heritage

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Course Description:

This course offers a transdisciplinary approach to understanding the complex factors that challenge the preservation of cultural heritage, one of the grand challenges of our time.

The challenges of the 21st century in protecting the tangible and intangible, cultural and natural heritage of the world are global in character, and, thus, must be addressed on a global level. Cultural and natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions. The world is changing at a rapid pace and conservation efforts must keep up with these challenges. For example, the last years have been witness to the phenomena of cultural cleansing rising in the Middle East and Africa, while natural disasters continue to take massive tolls, underlining the need to develop sustainable and global strategies for preservation. This course offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the complex factors that challenge the preservation of cultural heritage.

This course will provide an introduction to these challenges, starting with a discussion about the nature of cultural heritage. Students will consider why societies aim to preserve their heritage, including a discussion on values and significance, embracing the diversity of global perspectives on tangible and intangible, movable and immovable cultural heritage. Such examinations will be further informed by international charters and conventions.

Next, we will consider the processes that lead to the loss of cultural heritage. Topics that will be considered include the ten agents of deterioration established by the Canadian Conservation Institute, chemical, physical and other decay processes and their kinetics, man-made and natural disasters, global climate change and their consequences, illicit traffic and art crime, issues of contested ownership and its impact on preservation.

In the final segment of the course, we will focus on conservation approaches, from preventive conservation to emergency preparedness and disaster response, which will be discussed in detail together. New options provided by the 4th industrial revolution in the digital age will be examined in the context of preservation, authenticity and access. In addition, we will study issues surrounding forgery detection and the authenticity of artifacts, including scientific investigation methods for their study. We will carry out exercises in risk analysis and risk management related

to cultural heritage preservation, and explore the plus/minus dilemma of a good museum climate and the pathways toward the “green museum” together with further aspects of sustainability. As the challenges associated with protecting the world’s cultural and natural heritage, both tangible and intangible, are global in character, students will explore the following:

1. The evolution of ideas about cultural heritage, what needs to be preserved and why.
2. Damage processes and threats to cultural heritage of environmental, social, political, and economic kind.
3. Sustainable and "green" conservation approaches in the digital age to preservation of cultural heritage

In addition to speakers from Yale faculty, high-level international guest speakers and experts, related to intergovernmental organizations such as UNESCO, INTERPOL, public and private institutions from several continents have been invited to deliver lectures, in person or via innovation Zoom technology in the CTL, with the aim to enrich the class with the diversity of world perspectives. The schedule of the topics per week could slightly shift due to their availability. The course will include a field trip to the United Nations in New York, where we will meet with officials from the UNESCO Delegation and the Monitoring Team - 1267 Sanctions Committee at the UN Security Council.

Requirements and grading:

- 10% participation
- 10% assignment 1: short (1-2 pages) essay (07/10) and 5 min presentation in class (07/12)
- 10% short assignments (paragraph responses to a (weekly) question)
- 10% in-class facilitation (e.g. moderation of discussions)
- 10% proposal of final project—written and oral (07/17, 07/19)
- 20% class presentation of final group project (08/02)
- 30% final project report (08/02)

Each final group project will comprise an in-class presentation and a final paper (10-15 pages). Projects will be case-based and will employ a multi-disciplinary approach including QR elements, if applicable.

Student Assignments:

Assignment 1 (July 10th and 12th): Select a cultural heritage object/site/document/artefact and describe/discuss why it matters to you.

Final Group Project: Students will be split up into groups and will be required to complete a group project under professor supervision. Projects will be case-based and will employ a multi-disciplinary approach. The projects will allow students with differing interests and areas of expertise to work together. These projects will be carried out in parallel, with presentations scheduled for the final week. Groups will consist of 2-3 Students.

- Assignment 2 (July 17th and 19th): Discuss the project's background, literature found, progress/findings thus far, and plans
- Final presentation and written group report (August 2nd)

Group 1 Stone Deterioration in Groove Street Cemetery of New Haven

Purpose:

Understand the different processes involved in the sequence of anamnesis, diagnosis and treatment in stone conservation, including photography, ultrasonic velocity, 3D modeling and RTI imaging, as methods used to diagnose various levels of deterioration, in connection to the significance of Grove Street Cemetery, a National Historic Landmark in New Haven

Process:

Grove Street Cemetery (<http://www.grovestreetcemetery.org/>), or New Haven Burying Ground, is located on the outskirts of the Yale University campus. It is one of only 60 National Historic Landmarks in Connecticut, and, since 2000, it is also the ninth such landmark in New Haven. Grove Street Cemetery is among the first private, non-profit cemeteries in the world.

The aim of the assignment is to give a fundamental understanding of the problems related to stone degradation in historic monuments and how to address these. The group will study a selection of architectural elements and corresponding archival information on the Cemetery and discuss the social significance of the cemetery and the history (where available). They will prepare mapping materials (rectified photo, topography), map states of preservation (levels of preservation, evidence for repair, materials etc., according to the ICOMOS stone damage glossary) and perform simple diagnostic tests in the field of stone preservation i.e., ultrasonic velocity measurements, reflectance transformation imaging (RTI) and/or photogrammetry.

The assignment will include in situ data capture for the photogrammetry which then will be followed by generating the 3D models of the selected tombstones and (possibly after dark) RTI data capturing which will also be followed by the lab/office session to produce the RT Images. The tutorials for the software that will be used will be given at the Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (IPCH) on Yale West Campus.

Students are expected to develop simple proposals for a future preservation policy both regarding the social and physical aspects. How might damage be mitigated? What further dilemmas (ex: environmental forces, social and economic factors, preservation methods) are present?

Supervision: Goze Akoglu and Stefan Simon

Group 2 Understanding and evaluating the benefits and costs of preservation

Purpose:

Sustainable conservation can be considered a special form of benefit/cost management of cultural heritage, whose goal is to minimize the loss of value to cultural heritage resources, as measured at some specified point in the future, and for given financial, environmental and social costs. Students should gain knowledge on the main challenges of sustainable conservation using case studies from the fields of collections and heritage sites.

Process:

Various aspects of historic preservation have substantial economic benefits as well as economic costs. While many may argue that the benefits to society, both financial and otherwise, outweigh the costs, the relationship between preservation and the economy as well as overall societal benefit remains imperfectly understood. There is a critical need for innovative tools and research into this relationship. The project will entail a literature survey, explore concepts like “social discount rate” and others, engage in model value calculations and discuss a possible roadmap for future research.

Supervision: Lukasz Bratasz and Stefan Simon

Group 3 Global Challenges: Conflict and disaster, looting and illicit trade

Purpose:

Today, cultural heritage faces many challenges stemming from conflict, man-made and natural disaster, and the illicit antiquities market. Though governments and international organizations have created a variety of strategies to combat these dilemmas, not only do many problems persist, but parts of the global community have conflicting ideals and approaches for how to best manage the threats against heritage. Through the completion of this project, students should be able to articulate and discuss critically what threatens cultural heritage at the global level, what tools exist to protect heritage and the efficacy of their execution, and the current debates and issues surrounding the topic.

Process:

Projects should address, in depth, one or more problem/solution, of the group’s choice, related to the threats faced by cultural heritage. The project should be research-based and student-driven, with group members determining the path that they would like the project to take. Possible avenues include, but are not limited to:

- Examination and critique of relevant multilateral and bilateral agreements concerning heritage (i.e. The World Heritage Convention and the UNESCO 1970 Convention) through textual analysis and case studies. How well do international agreements work as preventive solutions? How effective are they as a reactive response to disasters, crimes against cultural heritage, etc.?
- Investigation into the interconnected nature of armed conflict and illicit antiquities trafficking.
- Take 2-3 restitution cases, and address the arguments for and against the return of cultural property. Think about what is involved in making a claim and under what pretenses might a nation or group request return, and for what reasons might a country or museum resist this request? Students should consider the latest charters, precedents set by previous restitution cases, and current legislation concerning the topic (Kulturgutschutzgesetz etc., H.R. 1493/S.1887, The Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act etc.). Such a project may involve a mock debate.

Supervision: Stefan Simon and Pete Coutros

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to adhere to Yale College’s policies on academic integrity. As the College website points out, “Discovering how to use others’ work to advance one’s own is a key part of

learning. Very few scholars ever have completely original ideas, and even the greatest scholars build on their predecessors' achievements. Understanding how to incorporate others' points into one's own arguments, and how to acknowledge those points properly, is one sign of maturing scholarship. It is also important to understand that failure to know or follow the conventions of documentation and citation—even when inadvertent—is considered a grave breach of academic integrity. The concept of academic dishonesty or cheating, detailed at greater length in the Undergraduate Regulations includes any misrepresentation of others' work as one's own, such as unacknowledged paraphrasing or quoting, use of another student's material, incomplete acknowledgment of sources (including Internet sources), or submission of the same work to complete the requirements of more than one course." See specifically:

<http://catalog.yale.edu/undergraduate-regulations/policies/definitions-plagiarism-cheating/>

All cell phones must be turned off for the duration of the class. Electronic devices such as laptops etc. are banned in class, any use will be counted against the participation grade.

Course Schedule:

Week I

07/03 Session 1: Introduction - The nature of cultural heritage

07/05 Session 2

- 9-10 am Guest lecture Corrado Cattesi, INTERPOL, 55 Whitney, room 351 9-11am
- 1-2 pm: Why do societies preserve cultural heritage? Assessing values and significance I
17 Hillhouse room 113
- 4 pm, Richard Kurin, Smithsonian Institution, "Saving Cultural Heritage in Crisis"
(Public Lecture), Loria Center, room 250

Week II

07/10 Session 1 Assessing values and significance II:

- 09 am Grove Street Cemetery visit with Michael Morand, Beinecke Library (arrive at front gates 9 am)
- 1-2 pm visit to Yale Babylonian Collection with Klaus Wagensonner, SML (meet 12:55 at main entrance, Sterling Memorial Library, 120 High St)
- 2:15 visit to Yale Center of British Art with Constance Clement and Mark Aronson
- Assignment 1 written portion due

07/12 Session 2: Damage processes

- 1-4:15 pm The 10 agents of deterioration with Lukasz Bratasz
- Assignment 1 presentations

Week III

07/17 Session 1: Risk Management

- 10:30 am Yale Peabody Museum visit with Tim White (YPM) (meet in entrance lobby YPM, 170 Whitney Ave 10:25)
 - Guest Lectures: Julio Vargas, PUCP Lima, Peru “Conservation in seismic and non-seismic areas” and Stefano Baia Curioni, Bocconi Milan “Heritage Policies in the Art Cities - Assessing values and significance”
 - Interactive Museum Game with Lukasz Bratasz
 - Email professor and TA assignment 2 reports
- 07/18 5 pm Rong Bo, Emperor Qin Shihuang`s Mausoleum Site Museum in Lintong, China: “The Terra-cotta Warriors & Horses of Emperor Qin Shihuang- a UNESCO world heritage site in Shaanxi,China: history and conservation challenges”, Loria 250
- 07/19 Session 2: Investigation Technologies - Analytics
- 1-4:15 pm Visit to the Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Yale West Campus, Conservation Lab with Ian McClure, Lens Media Lab Paul Messier, IPCH Digital Lab with Goze Akoglu and Chelsea Graham (TBC), Yale West Campus, Conference Center, room 209
 - Student Presentations Assignment 2

Week IV

- 07/23 5 pm, Matthew Bogdanos, Assistant District Attorney (DA), New York, “ISIS & Antiquities Trafficking: al-Qaeda 2.0.” (Public Lecture), Sudler Hall – WLH 201
- 07/24 9 am Visit to the Giamatti Bench (with Mark Aronson) on Old Campus (meet at 9:00 am, Old Campus, High Street entrance)
- Session 2: Disaster and Consequences
- 1 -4:15 pm with guest lectures by Vernon Rapley, Victoria & Albert Museum, London: “The Good the Bad and the Ugly’ – An examination of the war between museum security and those who seek steal, damage and corrupt our cultural heritage” Erik Nemeth, “Cultural property and international security”, and Pete Coutros
- 07/26 9-10:30 am IARU Summer School 2018 University of Copenhagen – Helle Porsdam - Cultural rights: A promising global discourse? Student group presentations live from Copenhagen , Room 351 , 55 Whitney Ave f
- Session 2: Cultural Rights, and Challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution - Conservation in the Digital Age
- 1-4:15 pm with Guest lecturers Helle Porsdam, University of Copenhagen, “Cultural rights and cultural heritage” Sandra Lopez Varela, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, “The Fourth Industrial Revolution: what it means for heritage and how to respond”, Holly Rushmeier “The Role of Computing in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage” (Yale Computer Science)
- 07/27 United Nations HQ, NYC, trip (includes meeting and discussion with UNESCO Delegation and the Monitoring Team - 1267 Sanctions Committee at the UN Security Council)

Week V

07/31 Session 1: Sustainability in heritage preservation; Documentation and access

- 1-4:15 Guest lectures Anupam Sah, (Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya or CSMVS Museum, Mumbai, May Shaer, Consultant, Amman Jordan (TBC)

08/01 5 pm Gustavo Araoz, ICOMOS: Evolving Heritage, Evolving Practice (Public Lecture), Sudler Hall – WLH 201

08/02 Session 2

- 1-4:15 Presentations of final assignments for three groups, discussion and retrospective thoughts, open for students from the Copenhagen IARU Course “Cultural rights: A promising global discourse”) to listen in
- Final written reports due

Readings

There are no required text books for this course. All of the readings will be available on our Canvas site.