Title: Collective Memory in the Pacific Northwest
Term: Spring 2017
Day/Time: to be decided
Instructors: Erin Stoddart, MSI, and Rick Stoddart, MLIS, EdD (Library)
Course: INTR 404, 1 credit, 2 hour seminar for 8 weeks
Location: Special Collections and Archives Reading Room and Instruction Lab, Library 1st Floor

Course Description:
This honors seminar will explore the relationship between history, memory, and identity. How does the phenomenon of social or collective memory shape an individual’s link to the past? How does collective memory shape and influence our everyday lives? How does society exclude people from collective memory? This course will explore how the Pacific Northwest region remembers its past through shared memories, experiences, understanding, and consciousness, also known as collective memory.

Students will learn about different types of memory (personal, generational, historical, flashbulb, institutional) and how it is represented in archives and mass media, including photographs, film, art, and literature. How is memory embodied in material things such as archival collections and museum artifacts? How is collective memory shaped through sites of memory (landscapes, memorials, monuments, heritage sites) and commemorative activities (traditions, rituals, and holidays)? How does society contribute to systematic remembering and forgetting of historical events? How does one’s gender, race, or ethnicity alter one’s collective memory? Students will actively engage in theories and methodologies of collective memory and the debates that surround it.

This course will introduce students to critical perspectives on collective memory through weekly readings, guest speakers, and discussion. For the final project, students will examine issues and debates that surround collective remembering and forgetting in Idaho through original primary source research.

Expected Outcomes and Learning Goals:
Students will be able to:
- Develop a definition of collective memory (Learn and Integrate)
- Apply their understanding of collective memory to historical events and mass media (Learn and Integrate)
- Articulate collective memory issues in Idaho (Think and Create / Communicate)
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic archival research (Learn and Integrate)
• Contribute their perspective to the scholarly conversation around collective memory and society in Idaho or the Pacific Northwest region (Learn and Integrate / Think and Create / Practice Citizenship)

Methods of Evaluation:

• Class participation (30%): Students are expected to participate fully and regularly in class discussions and come prepared having read all the material assigned.
• Discussion leader (10%): Each student will be assigned to lead an academic discussion and prepare class discussion questions in advance.
• Blog entries (15%): Students are expected to write a weekly blog entry as a synthesis of the week’s readings, guest speakers, and class discussion.
• Final Research paper (30%): Final paper will be based on an independent project about collective memory and a historic site, event, policy, or issue in Idaho. Students are encouraged to explore local primary source collections at UI Special Collections and Archives or nearby repositories.
• Final Presentation (15%): poster or verbal presentation on last day of class

Draft Course Reading and Supplemental Reading List:

Weekly Meeting Topics

1. Introduction to Collective Memory
   a. Remembering and forgetting, conflicting or contested memory
   b. Memory and history
   c. Memory and time

2. Types of Memory
   a. Personal, generational, political, flashbulb
   b. Popular memory
   c. Cultural memory

3. Memory and Media
   a. Photographs, film, art, literature/comics, books, etc.

4. Memory and identity
   a. Memory and identity
   b. Memory and trauma
   c. Memory and justice

5. Communities of memory
   a. Gender, race, indigenous people
   b. Traditions, rituals, holidays, commemorative activities
   c. Oral traditions

6. Sites of Memory
   a. Landscapes/environment
   b. Place (memorials, monuments, heritage sites)

7. Transmission of Memory
   a. Institutions of memory
   b. Museums, archives, libraries, schools

8. Wrap-up, student class presentations

Potential guest speakers:
- Adam Sowards, Environmental/PNW history
- Kathy Aiken, History
- Priscilla Wagers, Japanese Internment, sites
- Stacey Camp, Anthropology, sites, other
- Dulce Kersting, Latah County Historical Society
- WSU -- Dr. Kimberly Christen Withey
- JAMM professor