

# HERITAGE, MEMORY AND IDENTITIES IN A EUROPEAN BORDERLAND

**Dolomiti semester program:**

**ACTIVE LEARNING IN THE ITALIAN ALPS - SUSTAINABILITY, HERITAGE AND CREATIVITY**

Juri Bottura, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate

[juri.bottura@dolomiti-learning.it](mailto:juri.bottura@dolomiti-learning.it)

"The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there."

(L. P. Hartley, *The Go-Between*, 1953)

## **Course description**

An experience-based course in public history, here defined as the application of historical knowledge and methods to the promotion of public engagement with the past. Key concepts such as interpretation, representation, memory, heritage, commemoration and preservation are primary subjects of inquiry. Alpine Italy, thanks to its thousands of years of history as a frontier area in the very heart of Europe, exemplifies the implications of transforming history as an academic discipline into a cultural, political and economic practice.

## **Course structure**

The course is organized into:

- ✓ Eight class sessions (24 contact hours)
- ✓ Five guided visits (10 contact hours)
- ✓ Three laboratories (12 contact hours)

The course totals forty-six contact hours, corresponding to three semester credit hours.

Upon request, a supervised project can be added to the graded assignments in order to complete other fifteen contact hours, resulting in a total of four semester credit hours.

## Evaluation

- 10% Attendance and active participation
- 30% Midterm exam
- 10% Laboratories
- 10% Presentation
- 40% Final paper

### **Introduction to the field of studies; definition of the course's key concepts; introduction to social sciences methodologies and research goals; focus on oral history and interpretation.**

Class session #1 – Course presentation; definitions of heritage, memory, tradition, identity, and discussion on how they intersect; the methods of public history and heritage studies; history of the disciplines and current debates; the tools of shared authority, oral history and heritage interpretation.

- ✓ Harvey, D.C. (2001). Heritage pasts and heritage presents: temporality, meaning and the scope of heritage studies. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 7, 4 (pp. 319-338).
- ✓ Hunt, T.L. and Myerly, S.H. (2001). Memory and the Invention of Traditions. In Stearns, P.N. (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of European Social History from 1350 to 2000. Volume 3* (pp. 115-129). Detroit: Charles Scribner.
- ✓ Paasi, A. (2012). Regional Identities. In H.K. Anheier and M. Juergensmeyer (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Global Studies* (pp. 1453-1456). Thousand Oaks: SAGE.
- ✓ Corbett, K.T. and Miller, H. (2006). A shared inquiry into shared inquiry. *The Public Historian*, 28, 1 (pp. 15-38).
- ✓ Portelli, A. (1998). What Makes Oral History Different. in R. Perks and A. Thomson (Eds.) *The Oral History Reader* (pp. 63-74). London; New York: Routledge.
- ✓ Beck, L. and Cable, T.T. (2011). Preface; Introduction. In *The Gifts of Interpretation: Fifteen Guiding Principles for Interpreting Nature and Culture* (pp. xvii-xxvii). Urbana: Sagamore.

Visit #1 – Guided visit to the historic center of the city of Trento.

## Overview of modern European and Italian history, with a focus on the Alpine region.

Class session #2 – Premodern legacies, from prehistory to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- ✓ Hirst, J. (2010). *The Shortest History of Europe*. Tiverton: Old Street Publishing.
- ✓ Snodgrass, A. M. (1993). The early history of the Alps. *The Alpine Journal*, 98 (pp. 213-222).
- ✓ Beattie, A. (2006). The Holy Roman Empire: castles, dukes and princes; The Viscontis and the Venetians; The rise of Habsburgs; Religious strife; Napoleon and the French Revolution. In *The Alps: A Cultural History* (pp. 34-38, 46-52, 78-87). Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.
- ✓ Agnew, J.A. (2002). Landscape ideals and national identity in Italy. In *Place and Politics in Modern Italy* (pp. 36-58). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Visit #2 – Guided visit to the ethnographic museum “Museo degli Usi e Costumi della Gente Trentina” in San Michele all’Adige.

Class session #3 – The 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- ✓ Armiero, M. (2010). Nationalizing the mountains: natural and political landscapes in World War I. In M. Armiero and M. Hall (Eds.), *Nature and History in Modern Italy* (pp. 231-250). Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press.
- ✓ Pergher, R. (2012). Staging the Nation in Fascist Italy’s ‘New Provinces’, *Austrian History Yearbook*, 43 (pp. 98-115).
- ✓ Castelli, E. (2015). Solution of an identity-based conflict: the case of South Tyrol. In F. Andreatta and E. Castelli, *Solutions and Failures in Identity-based Conflicts: the Autonomy of Trentino-South Tyrol in Comparative Perspective* (pp. 27-48). Trento: FBK Press.

Visit #3 – Guided visit to the War Museum in Rovereto and the WW1 heritage site “Forra del Lupo” in Serrada.

**Introduction to the main sites and actors of public history; cases, practices and debates; present and future challenges and opportunities in the field.**

Class session #4 – Public displays of the past; museums and monuments; midterm exam.

- ✓ Black, G. (2011). Museums, memory, history. *Cultural and Social History*, 8, 3 (pp. 415-427).
- ✓ Choay, F. (2001). Monument and historic monument. In *The Invention of the Historic Monument* (pp. 1-15) Cambridge; New York; Melbourne; Madrid; Cape Town: Cambridge University Press.

Midterm exam

Visit #4 – Guided visit to the history museum “Le Gallerie” in Trento.

Class session #5 – New actors in public history; local communities and heritage tourists.

- ✓ Gentry, K. (2013). History, heritage and localism. *Policy Studies*, 34, 5-6 (pp. 508-522).
- ✓ Glover, N. (2008). Co-produced histories: mapping the uses and narratives of history in the tourist age. *The Public Historian*, 30, 1 (pp. 105-124).

Visit #5 – Guided visit to the Victory Monument’s historic exhibit in Bolzano.

Class session #6 – The new frontiers of public history and heritage; new media and digital history; environmental challenges and sustainability.

- ✓ Cohen, D. and Rosenzweig, R. (2005). Promises and Perils of Digital History. Retrieved from <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/introduction/>
- ✓ Lindsay, A. (2013). #VirtualTourist: embracing our audience through public history web experience. *The Public Historian*, 35, 1 (pp. 67-86).
- ✓ Longworth, E. (2015). The culture of prevention: heritage and resilience. In S. von Schorlemer and S. Maus (Eds.) *Climate Change as a Threat to Peace: Impacts on Cultural Heritage and Cultural Diversity* (pp. 119-125). Frankfurt: Peter Lang.
- ✓ Auclair, E. and Fairclough, G. (2015). Living between past and future: an introduction to heritage and cultural sustainability. In E. Auclair and G. Fairclough (Eds.) *Theory and Practice in Heritage and Sustainability: Between Past and Future* (pp. 1-22). London; New York: Routledge.

Laboratory # 1 – Two-day laboratory in Verona and Venice in collaboration with local organizations active in public history and heritage studies.

**The specificities of the human and environmental context of the Alpine region; final project seminar, outline of the paper, group presentation and feedback.**

Class session #7 – Human-environment historical interactions and the shaping of the Alps, from the early modern era to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- ✓ Mathieu, J. (2009). Environment and development; State formation and society. In *History of the Alps, 1500-1900: Environment, Development, and Society* (pp. 114-134, 195-221). Morgantown: West Virginia University Press.
- ✓ Fleming, F. (2004). The Alps and the imagination. *Ambio. Special Report*, 13 (pp. 51-55).
- ✓ Bainbridge, W. (2016). Debatable peaks and contested valleys: Englishness and the Dolomite landscape scenery. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 31, 1 (pp. 31-58).

Laboratory #2 – Final project seminar: this seminar aims at helping students to interpret the collected data, select the literature, and write their final paper.

Class session #8 – The Alps in the history of modern Italy.

- ✓ Dickie, J. (2001). The notion of Italy. In Z.G. Baranski and R.J. West (Eds.) *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Italian Culture* (pp. 17-33). Cambridge; New York; Melbourne; Madrid; Cape Town: Cambridge University Press.
- ✓ Armiero, M. (2011). Introduction; Wild Mountains. In *A Rugged Nation. Mountains and the Making of Modern Italy: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (pp. 1-52). Cambridge: The White Horse Press.

Laboratory #3 – Presentations: each student will prepare a presentation on the preliminary results of her/his research and an outline of the paper; every participant is expected to ask questions and give feedback to the presenter.