HON 338  Fall 2011
Thanatourism: Traveling the “Dark Side”

Catalog Description:
Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor. Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will focus on diverse travel narratives, literary works, and theoretical approaches to investigate the increasing allure of various tourist and historical sites that are associated with collective traumas and that raise questions about memory, commemoration, and exploitation. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits.

Restrictions: Acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor

Essential Equipment and Facilities: Seminar-style classroom with computer equipment.

Course Goals, Objectives and Learning Outcomes:
This course enables students to:

- Gain knowledge of historical, cultural, and literary contexts as well as diverse experiences, expressions, and definitions of identity through tourism/travel.
- Strengthen critical thinking and writing and gain knowledge of various theoretical approaches to the study of literature and culture, including Psychoanalytic, Feminist, and Postcolonial approaches.
- Explore the power of travel narratives and dark tourism, in particular, in the creation of notions of Self/individual/Other, community, and nation.

Content:
1. Overview of the study of (dark) tourism and historical and literary narratives that are linked to travel (in both eastern and western contexts).
2. Representing the macabre and exploring contemporary culture’s fascination with dark locations and past traumas.
3. Exploring the role of the museum and memorials in cementing collective histories and memories.
4. Specifically focusing on battlefield tourism (the Civil War in the United States, as an example), tours through the colonial past (the 1916 martyrs in Dublin, Ireland, as an example), genocide tourism (Auschwitz as a tourist site, as an example), and horror tourism (London’s Dungeon and The Tower, as examples).
Current Required Texts:
Joly, Dom. *The Dark Tourist*
Ryan, Chris. *Battlefield Tourism: History, Place, Interpretation*
Sharpley, Richard and Philip Stone, *The Darker Side of Travel: The Theory and Practice of Dark Tourism*
Spargo, R. Clifton. *After Representation?: The Holocaust, Literature, and Culture*
Various Literary (Yeats, Celan, Sachs, etc.), Historical, and Theoretical Handouts (to be distributed in class and/or BlackBoard)

Instructional Strategies:
1. Writing Assignments
   Writing assignments will be required, in both shorter response (to readings) form as well as formal essays.

2. Seminar: engagement with texts and each other
   Students will be required to lead discussions

3. Final presentation
   Students will be required to give a formal presentation on their final essay topic.

4. Final Exam
   Students will complete a comprehensive exam that includes exercises that allow for connections between texts and topics as well as a written component.

Methods of Evaluation:
Writing Assignments 40%
Seminars (led discussions/participation) 15%
Final Presentation 15%
Final Exam 30%

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university

Students with Disabilities Policy:
The course syllabus should include the following statement:
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of
any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Prepared by:
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