World Heritage in Global Conflict
Instructor: Lynn Meskell

Heritage is always political. Such a statement might refer to the everyday politics of local stakeholder interests on one end of the spectrum, or the volatile politics of destruction and erasure of heritage during conflict, on the other. If heritage is always political then one might expect that the workings of World Heritage might be especially fraught given the international dimension. In particular, the intergovernmental system of UNESCO World Heritage must navigate the inherent tension between state sovereignty and nationalist interests and the wider concerns of a universal regime. The World Heritage List has almost 1200 properties has many such contentious examples, including sites in Iraq, Mali, Syria, Crimea, Palestine, Armenia and Cambodia. As an organization UNESCO was born of war with an explicit mission to end global conflict and help the world rebuild materially and morally yet has found its own history increasingly entwined with that of international politics and violence.

Requirements
Assessment 1: Class presentation and oral participation (40%). This is a seminar, not a lecture-course, and consistent participation by all members is vital. Each of you will select specific readings the discussion of which you will commit to facilitate. Facilitation entails coming up with questions that will enable constructive and well-informed conversation based on presentations of the readings. It is expected that all students will attend all classes and participate in all discussions.

Assessment 2: Research paper to be handed in at the end of term on a topic developed in consultation with the instructor (60%). The paper should: (a) show that you have read and understood the texts at hand; and (b) provide an opportunity for you to think about the material in relation to your own writing and research. For undergraduates, the paper is to be double-spaced and approximately 15-20 pages in length. Papers submitted by graduate students are expected to be more detailed at 20-25 pages or longer, to be discussed with the instructor. The paper is due on the last class of the term. Please email me an electronic copy of your essay. Late papers will not be accepted.

Schedule of Meetings
The following lecture outlines and readings may be slightly modified in the course of the seminar.


WEEK 1 Introduction to course, assessment and seminar designations (Sept 1)

WEEK 2 Introduction to UNESCO World Heritage (Sept 8)
* livestream videos from UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meetings
  http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM/records/ and
  https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=world+heritage+committee
* The Temple That Sparked an Armed Conflict: System Error VICE NEWS
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwGP3Q9PDGY

WEEK 3 World Heritage and War (Sept 15)

WEEK 4 Angkor Wat, Cambodia (Sept 22)

WEEK 5 Preah Vihear, Cambodia (Sept 29)
WEEK 6 Bamiyan Valley, Afghanistan (Oct 6)


World-famous Buddhas of Bamiyan resurrected in Afghanistan
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JI4ozg4iEEw
Afghanistan Taliban Muslims destroying Bamiyan Buddha Statues
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYYBiPWYb7Y
NATO in Afghanistan - The future of the Bamiyan Buddhas
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aElJmNYkmG8
Bamiyan – Crumbling of the Buddhas
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KF9PQ_4iKWA
Rebuilding Bamiyan - Al Jazeera English
Part 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9Cu5iOjHQo
Part 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMktmlFzzCE

WEEK 7 Palestine (Oct 13)


**WEEK 8 Mali (Oct 20)**  

**WEEK 9 Syria (Oct 27)**  
* De Cesari, C. 2015. Colonial Ruins: Why the Islamic State targets Archaeology *Anthropology Today*. Vol. 31 No 6, December  

* Bonn Declaration of World Heritage Webpage  
*39th World Heritage Committee –Bonn Declaration 06/29/2015  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pMWc22Rsz8  
* ‘Cultural cleansing is human tragedy of Middle East’ – UNESCO chief to RT  
WEEK 10 Iraq (Nov 3)
* https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2021/1/21/mosul-a-wounded-city-trying-to-heal

WEEK 11 Yemen & the Gulf (Nov 10)
* Khalidi, L. 2019. "Yemen proves it: in Western eyes, not all ‘Notre Dames’ are created equal." The Guardian 26

WEEK 12 India (Nov 17)


**WEEK 13 (Dec 1)**

**USA, UNESCO & Black Civil Rights**

Discussion with Brent Leggs, Randall Mason (Weitzman School of Design) in working with and nominating American civil rights sites to the World Heritage List.