



MUSEUMS + MEMORIALS + RACE

ARCH 4204 - ARCH 5204 | Architectural History Topics

Spring 2022

FACULTY Dr. Emily Makas | emakas@uncc.edu

MEETING Tuesdays 11:30-2:15 | Storrs 290

PREMISE This seminar will interrogate the way memories and histories of people of color are interpreted and represented in museums and memorials across the United States. While the focus will primarily be on African American histories and identities, the seminar will also explore the experiences and commemorations associated with indigenous persons, Latinx communities, Asian Americans, and other racial minorities. Questions of process, meaning, form, inscription, timing, site, narrative, and reception will be analyzed for a variety of memorials and museums.

METHOD The course is structured around informal thematic presentations by the instructor and numerous in-class reading-based discussions. Students will also be asked to present case studies and conduct independent research. Students will also complete a brief, charette-style memorial design.

OBJECTIVES The objectives of this course are for students to:

- understand the history of memorials and museums referencing the history, culture, and identity of people of color
- understand the complexities and multiplicities of representations and memories of race
- understand the relationship between commemorative practices and broader socio-political contexts in the US
- implement ideas from precedents and research in design proposals
- organize and conduct research-oriented investigations on architecture and express ideas orally and in writing