

Topics in American Studies: American Museums and Monuments

Museums, monuments and historic sites are integral ways that American history and heritage are displayed, communicated and preserved for future generations. This course looks to focus specifically on the creation and preservation of these great places and the role they play in the American social context. Topics in the course will include: the history vs. heritage debate, the birth and development of preservation laws, preservation in American cities specifically New York, physical preservation/restoration and the question of censorship in historic sites today.

Students should expect to take one or two local field trips to experience the historic sites first hand as well as work on a collaborative project tackling a current preservation issue or challenge.