Cultural Anthropology of Contemporary Society – Mapping memory in space

4 credits

Course description

The course is a project-based learning experience which is designed to offer a purview of basic concepts and methods in cultural anthropology through actual field-work. This year the project framework is „mapping memory in space”. The students are asked to work in groups of two and form a plan (including methodology and schedule) to define, discover and document spatial elements of memory in a Budapest district (preferably all groups working in one or two streets so that the end result will be overlapping layers of maps of an area). There is no required reading for the course but there are recommended books that can be freely used for inspiration. The aim of the project is two acquire a sufficient knowledge of basic concepts and their application and to create a project presentation and documentation. Grades are composites of the application of concepts and methodology and the quality of the project, the former contributing 30%, the latter 70%.

Course outline

1. Maps, mapping – theory and examples.
2. Maps, mapping and the methods and concepts of cultural anthropology.
3. The concept of memory and memory in space.
4. Memory and tracing memory in space – examples.
5. Discussion of plans for group projects (concept, objectives, methodology).
6. Discussion of plans for group projects continued (schedule, documentation).
7. Presentation of first results of group projects – joint discussion and interpretation.
8. Presentation of first results of group projects --- joint discussion and interpretation.
9. Documentation methodology and schedule.
10. Documentation methodology and schedule.
11. Presentation of group project, joint discussion.
12. Presentation of group project, joint discussion.
13. Evaluation of the course and the project experiences.

Recommended readings

to be announced