

Course Syllabus

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International Issues in Preservation

This course will examine international policies and processes in the preservation of cultural heritage, as well as their theoretical underpinnings. A primary aim of the course is to promote critical thinking about the various approaches to preservation and the cultural values that inform them, with an eye toward better understanding the diversity of global practices.

The initial part of the course will focus on the infrastructure of the international conservation arena, including programs, entities/institutions, and the World Heritage system. The remainder of the course will explore cross-cutting issues, such as tourism, social justice and human rights, post-colonial dynamics, urbanization and sustainable development, the role of experts and disciplines, preserving vernacular practices and constructive cultures, etc., and the ways in which heritage and its conservation factor into these issues across varying geo-cultural contexts. The course has a hybrid lecture-seminar structure, and will utilize cases, readings, student projects, and robust discussion to examine philosophies, policies, and professional praxis.