

ARCH 557

History and Theory of Historic Preservation

Spring Quarter 2021

T-Th, 11:30-12:50 p.m.

Offered via Zoom

Department of Architecture, University of Washington

Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, Professor



ARCH 557 is a Graduate Seminar that addresses some of the historical and theoretical propositions that have shaped the development of preservation thinking. Beginning in the 19th century and continuing through to current approaches, debates and controversies, this seminar will support the development of critical perspectives toward historically significant resources and the ways in which they may be preserved. The course is intended to generate critical thinking about the ideas and processes of preservation and to help students establish their own stances on issues in this field.

ARCH 557 focuses on key primary and secondary texts that will provide the basis for class discussion of the history and various theories of preservation. The course will be wide-ranging and will include international influences on preservation (including international charters), as well as documents drawn from fields such as geography, anthropology and other disciplines.

ARCH 557 class time will be devoted primarily to discussion of the readings. Short presentations by student discussion leaders will introduce many of the readings and issues. The seminar format will allow for students to engage the material directly and profit from the questions, comments, and experiences of their fellow participants as well as the instructor. This type of engagement with the material is intended to give the student ownership of the material for use in research, writing, and future endeavors.

Note: The course readings are available on the Arch 557 Canvas site. Class members will be responsible for participating in the course discussions, for leading one or two classes, for completing several essay assignments, and for a research paper that will be presented to the seminar and submitted in hard copy.

Although the class has no prerequisites, those who have taken courses in historic preservation or have had professional experience in the field will likely be better prepared for the readings and discussions.

Questions? Contact: Prof. Jeffrey Ochsner at: jochsner@uw.edu