**Title and Code of Course:** Ruins between nature and culture – Arts and aesthetics of decay

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**Course Description:**

From picturesque depictions of Romantic ruins to scary abandoned cities in blockbuster action movies, from noble classical fragments to thrilling contemporary architectural projects based on derelict buildings, from careful presentation of archaeological sites to fake-authentic thematic malls – the course aims to survey the rich cultural, art and aesthetic history of ruins, decay and architectural dereliction in a broad perspective, focusing not only on the classical examples and representations in fine arts, but including in the examination also topics like the ambiguous aesthetics of recent dereliction, as well as its visiting and documenting (urbex and haikyo), the aesthetic status of fragments, the power and afterlife of monuments and archaeological sites, contemporary architectural projects departing from ruins, and even works of art created from ruin(ed) materials and rubble. In this way, throughout the course we will discuss both classical, modern and contemporary pieces of art and design, theoretical investigations connected to the aesthetics of decay in “high” and “popular” culture, as well as considerations about the endangered cultural heritage and its challenging management and conservation practices. The seminar is thus embracing classical and contemporary topics of art, aesthetics and culture.
Bibliography:

**Recommended readings**

(This is a suggested list in general about the subject. Further articles will be discussed in the lessons, and specific readings recommended to the students based on their individual, chosen topics.)


