ANTY 404.01: Anthropological Museology

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Course: Anthropology 404: Anthropological Museology.
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Course description: Anthropology has a long relationship with the history and development of U.S. museums. Anthropologists today continue to work in a museum environment in a variety of capacities. The course is designed to provide students with an overview of the evolution of museums and provide an in-depth examination of major museum practices. Major topics to be addressed are: curation, collections management, exhibition, administration, cultural heritage, cultural resource management, education, ethics and select social issues facing museums. In addition, the role that anthropology has had in analyzing material culture, ethnologically enhancing cross-cultural understanding emphasizing the importance of research in preserving significant pieces of cultural heritage.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will evaluate data within a diachronic and societal framework about the development of museums as institutions.
2. Students will synthesize ideas and information regarding the various components of working in a museum setting.
3. Students will be exposed to some of the institutional challenges of museums.

Face-to Face Safety Instructions: Please carefully read and comply with the instructions so we may have a safe instructional environment:

- The University encourages vaccines and boosters, which are offered at Curry Health Center.
- Mask use is no longer mandatory within the classroom, but respect those choosing to wear a mask to reduce the spread of respiratory viruses.
- Social distancing, while voluntary, is encouraged whenever possible.
- Stay home if you feel sick, exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or test positive, isolating for a minimum of five days and symptom-free. If you are sick or displaying any symptoms, please contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.

Required texts:


Recommended Readings:


Assignments and Grading: All students are required to read all the assigned readings. Remember: You are responsible for all the reading material on the tests. There are two exams during the course, a midterm (100 points) and final (100 points). The structure and content of each test will be disclosed during the test review. Grading is on a straight point system. Grades are not negotiable.
Students also are responsible for all materials presented in the course.

**Extra credit:** For those who would like to strive for a superior grade, a student can purchase one or more of the above recommended readings and write a critical review. The extra credit will be worth 30 possible points per book. The assignment is due the last lecture day of class. **No late assignments will be accepted after that day.**

**Graduate Students:** Graduate students, in addition to the required reading, are required to select a book from the above recommended reading list and write a critical book review of three to five pages. Graduate students also must write a problem-oriented or theoretical paper on any topic about museum studies from an anthropological context. The paper must be a minimum of 20 pages excluding bibliography. It also must be written in the American Anthropologist format. The goal is to write a paper that is potentially publishable or worthy of presentation at a professional conference. The work is due the final day of lecture.