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ANTY 404.01: Anthropological Museology

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ANTY 404: Anthropological Museology

Spring 2018 MWF 9:00 – 9:50am
LA Building, Rm 205

Instructor: Dr. C. Riley Augé

Office Hours: MWF 10-11am or by appointment
SS Rm 224 or UMACF, SS Rm 36

Contact: cynthiariley.auge@mso.umt.edu

Required Texts:

Ambrose, Timothy, and Crispin Paine. *Museum Basics*. 2nd edition. Routledge. ISBN 978-0-415-36634-2 (Newer editions acceptable, too.)

Buggeln, Gretchen, Crispin Paine, and S. Brent Place. *Religion in Museums: Global and Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. Bloomsbury. ISBN 978-1-4742-5551-6

Supplemental readings and materials will be posted on Moodle.

Course Description

This participatory course introduces students to the technical aspects of museum work as well as the ethical ramifications of these methods as they are applied in ethnographic and archaeological museums and collections facilities. The course covers both theoretical and practical components including the history of and debates over the philosophical nature of museums, the politics of memory and belief, and current issues faced by museums.

Museums have long played a vital role in the preservation of invaluable physical artifacts, manuscripts, books, and documents, but they have also been important scholarly research institutions and accessible gateways for the public to explore, engage with, and learn about culture and history. In this course students will consider theoretical issues such as the role of material culture in scholarly work and topics related to interpretation, preservation, and educational outreach. However, the intent is also to introduce students to a number of more practical aspects of museum work including collection accessioning, cataloging, curation, exhibit design, and interpretive label composition.

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn to think critically about the development and role of museums in Western and Non-Western cultures
- Students will develop a greater understanding of the issues and politics significant to the museum field
- Students will demonstrate and apply basic knowledge of the history and organization of museums
- Students will learn to evaluate written texts and exhibitions

- Students will discuss in written and verbal form current issues in the philosophy of museums, cultural patrimony, interpretation of objects, and the role of museums of society
- Students will acquire basic skills in the technical aspects of museum work

Course Structure

This course meets for 50 minutes, three days a week, throughout the semester. Class meetings will include lectures, in-class activities/discussions, hands-on museum work, writing assignments, and exams geared toward students' understanding of the ways anthropological collecting and museology influences the way we perceive and represent other cultures based upon their material culture. Be prepared for class by completing the assigned readings and any writing assignments before class.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken each class period. There will be some in-class projects and participation exercises that require attendance to get full points. Attending every class meeting is very important since we cover a great deal of material during the semester. Information and experiences presented in class go beyond that found in your textbooks and readings and will reflect topics on the exams. Additionally, material generated from class discussions and activities may be included on the exams.

Grades

Writing exercises	100 pts	Four exercises, 25 pts ea.
Quizzes	100 pts	Two quizzes, 25 pts ea.
Seminar Questions/Bullets	120 pts	Twenty four articles, 5 pts ea.
Seminar Facilitation	15 pts	
Cataloging exercise	20 pts	
Exhibit Project	75 pts	Three part project, 25 pts ea.
Total Points	410 points*	

*Two lowest grades will be dropped

The plus/minus system will be used and will be based upon the following scores: A (100-95%), A- (94-90%), B+ (89-88%), B (87-84%), B- (83-80%), C+ (79-78%), C (77-74%), C- (73-70%), D+ (69-68%), D (67-64%), D- (63-60%), F (59% or less).

All grades are based on the traditional 100 point scale (A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-9; F=59 and below). Make-up exams are only allowed in the case of illness, family emergency, military duty, participation in University sponsored sports competition (documentation from Athletics department required), or participation in academic events (documentation required). You will not be eligible for a make-up exam for your family reunion, vacation, or 'personal day.' You must notify me IN ADVANCE if you are unable to take the regularly scheduled exam.

Chronology of Quizzes and Assignment Due Dates:

- On-Campus Exhibit Assessment **(Feb 9)**
- Quiz One **(Feb 21)**
- Micromuseum Comparison Review **(Feb 23)**
- Anthropological Museum Webpage Assessment **(March 12)**
- Point/Counterpoint Paper on Display of Sacred Objects **(March 23)**
- Quiz Two **(April 4)**
- Exhibit Project: Part I-Proposal draft **(April 13)**
- Exhibit Project: Part II-Proposal presentation **(April 18)**
- Artifact Cataloging Exercise **(April 25)**
- Exhibit Project: Part III-Mounting display **(May 4)**

Students with Disabilities

The Department of Anthropology is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical disabilities or documented learning disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will meet with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to make accommodations. Please contact DSS (243.2373, Lommasson Center 154) for more information.

Academic Misconduct

<http://www.umt.edu/studentaffairs/sccAcademicConduct.htm>

Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. Academic misconduct is defined as all forms of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to: 1) plagiarism, 2) misconduct during an examination or academic exercise, 3) unauthorized possession of examination or other course materials, 4) tampering with course materials, 5) submitting false information, 6) submitting work previously presented in another course, 7) improperly influencing conduct, 8) substituting, or arranging substitution, for another student during an examination or other academic exercise, 9) facilitating academic dishonesty, and 10) altering transcripts, grades, examinations, or other academically related documents.