

# Anthropological Museology

ANT 3181  
Section 13H8  
Spring 2013

Meeting Periods: Monday, Periods 2-4 (8:30-11:30AM)  
Classrooms: Rinker Hall, Room 106

Instructor: Austin Bell  
Office: B123, Turlington Hall  
Phone: (605)-366-4048  
Email: aube@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays (9:00AM-12:00PM) and by appointment

## Course Overview and Objectives

This class examines the history and purpose of museums as institutions that preserve, display, and interpret cultural materials. We examine how museums developed, the role of exhibits and collections, and the changing social role of museums in modern culture. We also consider how to interpret human subjects and cultures in museum settings.

Various aspects of museum practice, management, and organization are addressed. Course materials and lectures prepare students to critique and evaluate museum practice. Written assignments are an important component of the course grade (non Gordon Rule credit). Written assignments should demonstrate the integration of readings, lectures, and original thought. The four short written assignments (2 pages each) and final critique should integrate lecture, readings, as well as your museum experience.

By the end of class you should understand the historical origins of museums, how museums are organized, fundamentals of collection care and curation, how exhibits are conceptualized and created, and issues facing anthropological museums and museums in general.

## Textbooks and Required Readings

The required textbooks for the course are as follows:

Burcaw, G. Ellis  
1997 *Introduction to Museum Work*. AltaMira Press; 3rd edition

Ambrose, Timothy and Crispin Paine  
2006 *Museum Basics*. 2nd edition, Routledge

*pdf files of other assigned readings are available on e-learning/Sakai*

## Exams and Grading

Mid-Term Exam (take home)	20%
Final Exam (take home)	20 %
4 short written assignments (5% each, due at start of class on due date)	20 %
Final Museum Critique (20% paper/10% presentation)	30 %
Attendance/Class Participation	10 %

## Grading scale

<b>A = 92-100</b>	<b>B- = 80-81.99</b>	<b>D+ = 68-69.99</b>
<b>A- = 90-91.99</b>	<b>C+ = 78-79.99</b>	<b>D = 62-67.99</b>
<b>B+ = 88-89.99</b>	<b>C = 72-77.99</b>	<b>D- = 60-61.99</b>
<b>B = 82-87.99</b>	<b>C- = 70-71.99</b>	<b>E = &lt;60</b>

*C- grade or lower will not count for major, minor, or general education credit.*

For more information on University of Florida grading policies, visit the following link:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Late assignments or makeup exams will not be accepted without a written medical excuse or proof of official university business arranged in advance.

All written assignments should be **printed** and brought to class on the date they are due. They will be collected at the beginning of class. Please **do not e-mail** assignments. Exceptions will be made only under extenuating circumstances. Let me know in advance if this poses a problem for you.

## Course Policies and Procedures

### *e-Learning/Sakai:*

Complementary readings and assignment descriptions will be uploaded to e-Learning/Sakai at least one week prior to their due date. They will be available for download under the “Resources” tab. To access e-learning/Sakai, visit the following link and login with your Gatorlink account: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

### *Classes, Readings, & Attendance Policy:*

Please complete assigned readings prior to class, as they will enhance your understanding of the subject matter and prepare you for classroom discussions and participation.

Unexcused absences will result in the deduction of points from your attendance/classroom participation grade. These are the easiest points you can earn, so please come to class on time every week.

For field trips outside of the classroom (Harn, FLMNH, etc.), an additional 20 minutes will be allotted to the beginning and end of class to account for the additional travel time required to reach the destination. Since this class begins at 8:30am, it will begin at 8:50am when “on-site” at a museum. Allow yourself enough time to get there by 8:45am so class can begin promptly at 8:50am. Class will end at roughly 11:15am (sometimes earlier) instead of the normal 11:30am on field trips. Let me know in advance if this poses a problem for you so that we can make accommodations or arrangements for alternative transportation.

### *Classroom Etiquette:*

Please be attentive, open-minded, and respectful during presentations and class discussions. This includes turning cell phones off or to “silent.” No texting in class! Laptops are fine for taking notes.

### *Academic Honesty:*

Violations of the University’s Honor Code will lead to the Department’s and the University’s procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the [University’s Honor Code](#) and the student conduct code.

The UF Honor Pledge:

*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. For all work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize, a formal grievance will be filed with the Dean of Students Office for Judicial Affairs and it will become part of your permanent record. You will receive a zero on the assignment.

***Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:***

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Please register with the Dean of Student's office if you require assistance. They will provide you with documentation to present to your instructor. If you need any accommodations, **please register in the first two weeks of class.**

For more information on the Disability Resource Center, visit the following link: [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

***UF Counseling Services***

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. [University Counseling and Wellness Center](#), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
2. [Sexual Assault Recovery Services](#) (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
3. [Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling
4. [Reading & Writing Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-0791, writing assistance, study skills, test preparation

Please feel free to contact me about any problems as well, especially if they are relevant to or affect your performance in this class. My "door" is always open.

**Course Outline**

***Critical Dates:***

Mid-Term Exam: **Due February 25**

Final Museum Critique: **Due April 22**

Final Exam: **Due May 3, 12pm**

***Course Schedule:***

**Week 1 - January 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Course Introduction*

Readings:

Syllabus

**Week 2 - January 14<sup>th</sup>**

*History of Museums and Exhibitions*

Guest Lecturer:

Susan deFrance, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Anthropology

Video:

"Bontoc Eulogy"

Readings:

Introduction to Museum Studies

Burcaw - chap. 1; Ambrose and Paine pp. 1-14

History of Collecting and Founding Museums

Burcaw - chap. 2

Articles: Hinsley; Rubel and Rosman; Eves; Hinsley and Holm; Bushnell; Dorsey; Thomas (M. Mead reading)

HW #1 Distributed

### **Week 3 – January 21<sup>st</sup>**

NO CLASS

Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **Week 4 – January 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Different Types of Museums: Anthro, Art, Natural History, History*

CLASS AT THE SAMUEL P. HARN MUSEUM OF ART

Guest lecturers:

Laura Nemmers, Registrar (collections tour)

Eric Segal, Education Curator of Academic Programs (museum overview)

Kerry Oliver-Smith, Curator of Contemporary Art (exhibit tour)

Susan Cooksey, Curator of African Art (exhibit tour)

Readings:

The Structure and Role of Museums

Burcaw chapters 3 and 4, Ambrose and Paine pp. 18-45

Collier and Tschopik; Handler

Different Types of Museums

Burcaw chapters 6, 7, 8, Ambrose and Paine pp. 6-7; Phillips

**HW Assignment #1 Due**

### **Week 5 – February 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Research at the Museum; Museums as "Field Sites"*

Guest Lecturers:

Neill Wallis, Curator of North Florida Archaeology, FLMNH

Melissa Ayzaz, Graduate Student, SW Florida Archaeology, FLMNH

Austin Bell

*Topics:* types/role of museums; museums as "field sites"; SIMA project; current research at FLMNH: Seminole/Miccosukee "genealogy of objects"

Readings:

Research at the Museum

Ambrose and Paine pp. 131-132, 159-160

Museums as Field Sites

Caple, Thompson and Parezo, Sturtevant, Thomas

### **Week 6 – February 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Collections Management/Registration; Preservation/Conservation*

Guest Lecturers:

Elise LeCompte, Registrar, FLMNH

Susan Milbrath, Curator of Latin American Art and Archaeology, FLMNH

Video:

"From Here to There: Museum Standards for Object Handling"

Readings:

Museum Registration

Burcaw chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, Ambrose and Paine pp. 133-202; Flynn and Hull-Walski; Jones; NMNH;

LeCompte handouts

HW #2 Distributed

### **Week 7 – February 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Ancient Human Remains and Human Evolution on Display*

Guest Lecturers:

Gypsy Price, Ph.D. Candidate, Bioarchaeology

Sarah Kiley, Graduate Analyst, C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory

Video:

“The Hall of Man”

Readings:

Berman; Brauer; NPR Article: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5637687>

Brief summary of the film due at the end of class

### **HW Assignment #2 Due**

Mid-Term Exam Distributed

### **Week 8 – February 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Bioarchaeology and NAGPRA*

CLASS AT **RINKER HALL, ROOM 106** (WE WILL WALK TO DICKINSON AS A CLASS AFTER LECTURE)

Guest Lecturers:

Donna Ruhl, Collections Manager, North Florida Archaeology/Bioarchaeology, FLMNH

Elise LeCompte, Registrar, FLMNH (collections tour at Dickinson Hall)

Readings:

Hoffman; Thomas; Rosoff; NAGPRA readings

*Optional:* LeCompte handouts

### **Mid-Term Exam Due**

Final Museum Critique Distributed

### **Week 9 – March 4<sup>th</sup>**

NO CLASS

Spring Break

### **Week 10 – March 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Exhibits/Documentation and Archives*

Guest Lecturers:

CLASS AT **RINKER HALL, ROOM 106** (WE WILL WALK TO SMATHERS AS A CLASS AFTER LECTURE)

John Nemmers, Archivist, George A. Smathers Library (tour of Smathers Special Collections Library)

Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler, Exhibits Coordinator, George A. Smathers Library

Austin Bell

*Topics:* history of exhibit practices; types of exhibits; incorporating multiple “voices”; community curators

Readings:

Documentation/Archives

Smithsonian’s “Guide to Collections Records”; Sturtevant; Banks

*Optional:* Edwards and Hart

Changing Exhibit Practices

Arieff; Jacknis

*Optional:* Bilby; Gable and Handler; Kahn

HW #3 Distributed

### **Week 11 – March 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Administration; Fundraising; Exhibit Development*

CLASS AT **POWELL HALL, FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY** (MEET IN LOBBY)

Guest Lecturers:

William Marquardt, Curator of South Florida Archaeology and Ethnography, FLMNH

Darcie MacMahon, Director of Exhibits, FLMNH (tour of SWF exhibit hall)

Readings:

Burcaw chapter 19; Ambrose and Paine pp. 78-131

**HW Assignment #3 Due**

**Week 12 – March 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Museum Education; Museums and Leisure Time*

Guest Lecturers:

Glenn Willumson, Director of Museum Studies Program, Professor of Art History

Jess Belcoure, Volunteer Coordinator, Panama Canal Museum Collection, Smathers Library

Readings:

Burcaw Ch. 15, 16; Ambrose and Paine pp. 46-67; Alexander pp. 281-303

HW #4 Distributed

**Week 13 – April 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Engaging the Public; The Future of Museums*

Guest Lecturers:

Bruce McFadden, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, FLMNH

Eric Segal, Education Curator of Academic Programs, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

TBA

Readings:

The Future of Museums

Burcaw Ch. 21-22; Terrell; Ben Ze'Ev and Ben-Ari

**HW Assignment #4 Due**

**Week 14 – April 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Museum Ethics; Getting Involved in the Museum Field*

Guest Lecturers:

Renee Kiefer, Registration Assistant, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

Austin Bell

In-Class Group Exercise

Start Final Class Presentations (5)

Readings:

Museum Ethics

Ambrose and Paine pp. 14-16; TBA Readings

Getting Involved

Burcaw Ch. 20; TBA Readings

**Week 15 – April 15<sup>th</sup>**

Class Presentations (10)

**Week 16 – April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Class Presentations (10)

**Final Museum Critique Due**

Distribution of Final Exam

**Reading Days: April 25-26**

**Final Exams: April 27-May 3**

**FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2013 AT 12PM.**

**You may drop off your exam to B123, Turlington or Dickinson Hall (by appointment) before that date.**