

SEMINAR IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL MUSEOLOGY

ANT4930/ANG6930
Spring 2024

Dr. Susan D. deFrance
1350-B Turlington Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4 pm; Thurs 9:30-10:30
And by appt in person or zoom

Class Objectives:

This class examines the history and purpose of anthropological museums as institutions that preserve, display, and interpret cultural materials and humankind. 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. We consider display of objects, interpretation and exhibit preparation, and various legal aspects of museum practice. Course materials and lectures prepare students to critique and evaluate museum practice.

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, particularly related to the repatriation of cultural heritage in international settings and within the United States.

Class participation, attendance, and discussion are critical to your success in the class. Come prepared to discuss the readings.

We will visit campus facilities and museums and meet with museum specialists.

Required Texts

Burcaw, G. Ellis

1997 *Introduction to Museum Work*. Alta Mira Press; 3rd edition (buy a used copy on Amazon)

Ambrose, Timothy and Crispin Paine

2018 *Museum Basics: The International Handbook*. 4th edition, Routledge – ONLINE through UF library – please use your UF VPN to download chapters or read online

pdf files of assigned readings are available at the class web site on e-learning/Canvas under Files and organized by week.

Class Requirements

Mid-Term take-home essay exam 2/29	20 %	
4 short written assignments (2 pages 2x spaced) 2/1, 2/14, 4/3, 4/15	20 %	(5% each)
Final Museum Critique (4 pages) 4/24	20 %	
Final exam 4/30	20 %	
Class participation, attendance, and weekly written summaries/critiques of readings (~1 page)	20 %	

Please put cell phones to silent, no texting. Computer use for notes is fine.

Grading scale

A + = 97-100	C+ = 78-79.99
A = 94-96.99	C = 72-77.00
A- = 90-93.99	C- = 70-71.99
B+ = 88-89.99	D+ = 68-69.99
B = 82-87.99	D = 62-67.99
B- = 80-81.99	D- = 60-61.99
	E = <60

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

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS OR MAKEUP EXAMS SCHEDULED WITHOUT A WRITTEN MEDICAL EXCUSE OR EXCUSE RELATED TO OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY BUSINESS ARRANGED IN ADVANCE.

PLAGARISIM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IF YOU PLAGARIZE SOURCES, I WILL FILE AN FORMAL GRIEVANCE 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.

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."**

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 professor. www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ If you need accommodation, please register in the first two weeks of class.

UF Counseling Services:

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems 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

WEEKLY TOPICS

W1 Jan. 11	Introduction – Anthropology and Museums
W2 Jan. 18	Different Types of Museums, Campus Museums
W3 Jan. 25	History and Legacy of Collecting
W4 Feb. 1	History of Exhibits, World’s Fairs, Ethnographic Displays of Live Persons
W5 Feb. 8	Research Collections and Care
W6 Feb. 15	Interpretation and Display
W7 Feb. 22	Museum Staffing, Administration, Outreach, Education, Infrastructure
W8 Feb. 29	Museums of Memory, Conflict, Warfare
W9 March 7	Evolution and Human Biological Collections
W10 March 14	Break
W11 March 21	Repatriation – International Patrimony
W12 March 28	Repatriation - NAGPRA
W13 April 4	Contemporary Collecting, Modern Urban Life
W14 April 11	Museum Activism, Multivocality, Political Role of Museums
W15 April 18	sdef at SAA conference – work on final project and final exam

COURSE OUTLINE AND TOPICS

Week 1 Jan. 11

Course Introduction

Introduction to Museum Studies

Burcaw – preface and chap. 4, Ambrose and Paine pp. 1-14

Review this web site by the American Alliance of Museums - <https://www.aam-us.org/> and this portion of the web site - <https://www.aam-us.org/programs/about-museums/museum-facts-data/>

Week 2 Jan. 18 Different Types of Museums, Campus Museums

Different Types of Museums:

Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, Natural History, History, Living History Museums

UF Library Archives, Special Collections – meet in Smathers Library (East) lobby

(ground floor), and we will proceed to the

2nd floor Judaica Suite (through the Grand Reading Room), Dr. Ginessa Mahar and others will present information on library archives and special collections, and library exhibits

Burcaw – chapters 9, 10, 11

Written Assignment #1 due 2/1

Pop up climate museum - https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/29/arts/design/climate-museum-soho-fossil-fuel.html?mwgrp=a-mbar&unlocked_article_code=1.Kk0.omJl.Vq6Bb-vXvM89&smid=url-share

Week 3 Jan. 25 History and Legacy of Collecting

History of Museums and Museum Collecting

The Modern Legacy of Past Collecting, Cataloging, and Display Practices

Burcaw - chap. 3 and 5

Articles relate to history of collecting and founding of museums

Hinsley; Rubel and Rosman; Eves; Hinsley and Holm

Bushnell; Dorsey, Thomas (M. Mead reading)

Greene; Taylor

<https://www.npr.org/2008/11/24/97377145/a-history-of-museums-the-memory-of-mankind>

Week 4 Feb. 1 History of Exhibits, World's Fairs

History of Museums and Exhibits, Living Ethnographic Displays, World's Fairs

The "Voice" of the Museum

Ambrose and Paine pp. 18-60

Collier and Tschopik; Handler; Modest

Week 5 Feb. 8 Research Collections and Care

Meet at Dickinson Hall, Florida Museum of Natural History
Elise LeCompte, FLMNH registrar

Collections Managers – tours archaeology and Natural History collections
North and South Florida Collections; Ceramic Technology lab, Historical Archaeology
Mammals and Bird, Fish, Herbarium collections
Care and Curation of Collections including objects not on display
Research Collections, Collections Management, Accession, Deaccession,
Registration, Preservation, Conservation, Restoration

Burcaw chapters 12, 13, 16 Ambrose and Paine pp. 133-202
Flynn and Hull-Walski; O’Hern et al.; Silva and Gordon; Turner; Phillips

Weeks 6 Feb. 15 Interpretation and Display

Exhibit Design and Display
Writing for a Public Audience; External Consultants

Guest lecture with Darcie MacMahon, Director of Exhibits and Public Programs, FLMNH
Meet AT Powell Hall and we will visit SW Florida Hall together

Jacknis; Bilby; Arieff; Kahn; Rosoff; Gable and Handler (2 papers)
Ambrose and Paine pp. 78-131
Burcaw chapters 17-20

Written Assignment #2 Critique of Southwest Florida Hall Exhibit, due 2/14

Week 7 Feb. 22 Museum Staffing, Administration, Outreach, Education, Infrastructure

Museum Administration and Staffing
Museum Support Groups
Corporate Sponsorship – Museo Contisuyo, Moquegua, Peru
Building Design, Accreditation, Peer Review, Visitor Evaluation

Zoom meeting with Austin Bell, Curator, Marco Island Historical Museum
Burcaw chapters 20, 21
Ambrose and Paine - pp. 235-301
Semmel et al.; Klarich; Look at Jacknis and Bilby again

Week 8 Feb. 29 Museums of Memory, Conflict, Warfare, and Human Rights

View – <https://www.cipdh.gob.ar/memorias-situadas/en/los-lugares/>

Review three sites of memory- WARNING – this is difficult content that some may find disturbing or offensive. Review the purpose of this web site and its organization.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/07/peru-mayor-closes-museum-of-memories-army-shining-path> and this site - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/20/peru-museum-place-of-memory-shining-path>

Please review this website and the timeline of the Sept 11 attack - <https://www.911memorial.org/>

MIDTERM EXAM (opens 2/25, due 3/3)

Week March 7 Evolution and Human Biological Collections

Ancient and Modern Human Remains and Human Evolution on Display
Plastinated Bodies
Anti-science - Creationism Museum

The Hall of Man - film – view online – using UF VPN

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/889598d3e5874cfca4a52c449226e1481d>

Also read - Berman; Hoffman; Thomas; Brauer; Wilson

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/malvina-hoffman>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/21/arts/design/races-of-mankind-sculptures-long-exiled-return-to-display-at-chicagos-field-museum.html>

watch short video on life of Malvina Hoffman - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdtS8OYhDqI>

Week 10 March 14 Spring Break – visit a museum!

Week 11 March 21 Repatriation – International Patrimony

Controversy, Repatriation (of objects)

Burcaw chapter 19

Colwell-Chanthaphonh; Kendall

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-66932129>

David Campo guest lecture – Amazon feathered headdresses, legal issues

Week 12 March 28 Repatriation - NAGPRA

NAGPRA (North American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act)

Native American Human Remains

Catherine Smith, FLMNH NAGPRA Coordinator guest lecture

Written Assignment # 3 due on April 3

NAGPRA legislation

Belarde-Lewis; Marseli

Week 13 April 4 Contemporary Collecting, Modern Urban Life

Collecting Modern Urban Life

Brumfiel, Elizabeth and John K. Millhauser; Mullins, Wali

Burcaw chapter 24-27

Week 14 April 11 Museum Activism, Multivocality, Political Role of Museums

Museum Activism, Multivocality, Political Role of Museums

Ben Ze'Ev and Ben-Ari

Written Assignment # 4 due on Monday, April 15 (Internet and Museums)

Week 15 April 18 sdef at SAA conference – work on final project

Final Museum Critique — due April 24

Final Exam – Posted Online LAST DAY of CLASSES, 4/24, due Tuesday, April 30–by midnight