

**MUSEUM METHODS**  
**Anth 177—Spring 2014**

**Seminar:** T 1:30-2:45 pm, MND 2302

**Lab:** 6 hrs, Anthropology Museum, MND 1000

**Instructor:** Terri Castaneda, Ph.D. **Email:** [tac@csus.edu](mailto:tac@csus.edu)

**Faculty Webpage:** [www.csus.edu/indiv/c/castaneda](http://www.csus.edu/indiv/c/castaneda)

**Office:** MND 4028 **Office Hours:** Thursday 11:45-2:45 (in Anthropology Museum)

**Phone:** Office 278-6067; Anthropology Museum 278-5337

**Teaching Assistant:** Carrie Cohen ([cdp49@csus.edu](mailto:cdp49@csus.edu))

**Museum Lab Hours:** 12-4 (Monday & Tuesday), 11:45-2:45 (Thursday) & TBD.

**Catalog Description:** (ANTH 177) Designed to teach basic museum methods. Surveys contemporary issues and practices in museum governance, management, interpretation, and evaluation. Provides hands-on collections and exhibit experience, including participation in the design, fabrication and installation of an exhibition. Lecture one hour, laboratory six hours. Prerequisite: Classification as anthropology major or graduate student.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** after completing ANTH 177, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and apply a range of techniques, tools, and materials used in museum work, including material culture research.
- 2) Discuss contemporary methods and critical issues in exhibition and collections management and development.
- 3) Locate and utilize the basic literature of museum methods, professional museum organizations, and museum reference sources.
- 4) Research, develop, design, fabricate, and install an exhibit.

**Primary Tasks to be Accomplished**

- 1) Inventory of the George F. and Alice W. Beardsley Collection (donated in 1956).
- 2) Design, fabrication, installation and de-installation of an exhibit highlighting the collectors, the inventory and research process, and selected objects from the collection—including cultural attributions, artistic and technical components of construction.

**Course Requirements**—Attendance at our Tuesday seminar sessions; satisfactory completion of all exercises, assignments, and reading quizzes; satisfactory completion of the semester-equivalent of 6 lab hours per week (*many of these hours will involve exhibit development, serving as a museum docent, independent research related to the Beardsley Collection artifacts, and attendance at scholarly lectures or fieldtrips to off-site locations*).

**Required Texts**

Buck, Rebecca A. and Jean Allman Gilmore

2010 The New Museum Registration Methods 5<sup>th</sup> Edition [*aka MRM5*]. Washington DC: American Association of Museums Press.

Burcaw, G. Ellis

1997 Introduction to Museum Work, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press.

### **Additional Required Readings** (*posted to SacCT*)

Boyd, Colleen E.

2012 *Objects of Exchange: Social and Material Transformation on the Late Nineteenth-Century Northwest Coast*. Aaron Glass, ed. New York: The Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture, 2011. 253 pp. *Museum Anthropology* 35(2):188-189.

Foster, Robert J.

2012 *Notes for a Networked Biography: The P.G.T. Black Collection of Oceanic Things*. *Museum Anthropology* 35(2):149-169.

Montoya, Teresa

2013 *Spider Woman's Gift: Nineteenth-Century Diné Textiles at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture*. Shelby J. Tisdale, ed. Santa Re: Museum of New Mexico Press, 2011. 96 pp. *Museum Anthropology* 36(1):83-84.

Moser, Stephanie

2010 *The Devil is in the Detail: Museum Displays and the Creation of Knowledge*. *Museum Anthropology* 33(1):22-32.

Thomas, Nicholas

2010 *The Museum as Method*. *Museum Anthropology* 33(1):6-10.

**Assignments & Evaluation**—To accomplish the course tasks (see p. 1), students will be responsible for both group and individual work. Group work will include exhibit development, installation and de-installation. Individual work will include preparation of research reports and related documentation for a suite of artifacts belonging to the Beardsley Collection, a series of reading/text-based exercises, sharing in the responsibility for keeping the museum open and secure once the exhibit is up and running, maintaining an online journal (*the course and each student will develop a blog on which they will enter a weekly log of lab hours and research-related updates*), and participating in SacCT discussions related to conceptualization and design of the exhibit. Your final course grade will be based on an average of the following components: exhibit development (25%); average of occasional exercises and four online reading quizzes (25%); maintenance of individual blog/journal & completion of required lab hours (25%); inventory/research reports (25%).

**Grading Scale**— A (92-100%); A- (90-91%); B+ (88-89%); B (82-87%); B- (80-81%); C+ (78-79%); C (72-77%); C- (70-71%); D+ (68-69%); D (62-67%); D- (60-61%); F (59% or below).

**Make-up Policy**—Given that your quizzes will be administered through SacCT, I do not intend to provide opportunities for making up missed quizzes. **Late Penalty**—Assignments and/or exercises will be penalized 10 points for each day late (M-F).

**SacCT**—I will use SacCT to help manage portions of this course. For instance, I will use it to post announcements, to deliver required readings, to post exercise/writing assignment instructions, to engage you in discussion about the exhibit concept and design and to quiz you on readings.

**Cell Phones, Laptops/Tablets:** Please silence your cell phones during class and refrain from texting. Laptops and tablets may be used for course-related purposes only.

**SSWD**—Students who need disability accommodation are urged to approach me early in the course of the semester. See: <http://www.csus.edu/sswd/services/policies/LD-Policy.html>.

**Academic Dishonesty**—Cheating on examinations and/or plagiarism will result in a score of zero on the assignment in question and may well result in your permanent dismissal. See: <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm>.

## Course Schedule \*

WEEK	DATE	EVENT/ TASKS/DISCUSSION TOPICS	READING UNITS/ASSIGNMENTS & DEADLINES
1	1/28	Introduction to Course and Museum	
2	2/4	Instructions for Creating your Course Blog Reading Q & As Introduction to the Beardsley Collection	<b>I. DEFINING MUSEUMS</b> Burcaw Chpts. 1-8
3	2/11	<b>Guest Lecture</b> by Carrie Cohen—An Introduction to the Beardsleys  Discussion of Inventory & Exhibit Goals	Burcaw Chpts. 12-14 Foster (2012), Moser (2010), Thomas (2010)  <b>Deadline:</b> blog up & running, w/ 1 <sup>st</sup> entry. <i>Hereafter, you must post your lab hours &amp; activity summary by 11 am each Tuesday.</i>
4	2/18	Finalize Exhibit Concept Reading Q & As	<b>II. INTRODUCTION TO MUSEUM REGISTRATION</b> Buck & Gilmore (B&G) SECTION 1  <b>Deadline 1:</b> Participation in SacCT discussion re: exhibit concept ( <i>by 11 am</i> ). <b>Deadline 2:</b> SacCT Reading Quiz#1 ( <i>completed by 11 am today</i> ).
Thursday 2/20 12:30-3 pm		<b>Tour</b> —Statewide Museums Collection Center (including the California Indian Basketry Collection, with preservation/mount-making demo by Carrie Cohen) <a href="#">Informational Brochure</a>	
Friday-Sunday 2/22—2/23		<a href="#">Marin Art of the Americas Show</a> ( <i>door to door travel time may be applied to lab hours</i> )	
5	2/25	Exhibit Design Discussion Reading Q & As Distribution of Auction Catalogs	<b>III . REGISTRATION POLICIES &amp; PROCESSES</b> B&G Sections 2 & 3a-3e  <b>Deadline:</b> Participation in SacCT discussion/ brainstorming re: exhibit design ( <i>completed by 11 am today</i> ).
6	3/4	Finalize Basic Exhibit Design Develop Design Teams	B&G Section 3f-3o  <b>Deadline 1:</b> Deed of Gift Exercise ( <i>completed by 11 am today</i> ) <b>Deadline 2:</b> SacCT Reading Quiz #2 ( <i>completed by 11 am today</i> ).
7	3/11	Presentation of Story Boards in Museum	<b>Deadline:</b> Team story boards due ( <i>by 1:30 pm</i> ). Fabrication begins this week
8	3/18	<b>Guest Speakers</b> —Marina Vlnar (JFK U.) and Raquel Coleman (Texas Tech) discuss graduate work in Museum Studies	Fabrication continues all week
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>			
9	4/1	<b>Featured Presentation</b> —Nancy Wylie demonstrates the Univ. Art Coll. Database Reading Q & As	<b>IV. RECORDS MANAGEMENT</b> B&G Section 4 Installation begins this week
10	4/8	Review Exhibit Installation Progress Produce walk-through list for pre-opening Reading Q & As	<b>V. COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT</b> B&GS Section 5  <b>Deadline:</b> SacCT Reading Quiz #3 ( <i>completed by 11 am today</i> ).

11	4/15	Exhibit Opening & Reception 1:30 – 3 pm	<b>VI. GETTING A MUSEUM JOB</b> Burcaw pp. 193-202. <b>Deadline:</b> Job-related blog post ( <i>details TBA</i> )
12	4/22	Roundtable Discussion of Catalog Reviews	Boyd (2012), Montoya 2013) <b>Deadline:</b> Exhibit Catalog Review ( <i>details TBA</i> )
13	4/29	Ethical & Legal Issues Progress Reports on Research Reading Q & As	B&G Section 7 <b>Deadline:</b> NAGPRA-Related Blog Post ( <i>due by 11 am; details TBA</i> )
14	5/6	<b>Tour</b> —Special Collections and University Archives	<b>Deadline:</b> SacCT Reading Quiz # 4 ( <i>completed by 11 am today</i> ).
15	5/13	Roundtable Evaluation of Exhibit and Inventory	<b>Deadline:</b> Inventory/Research Reports due at 1:30
16		Finals Week—Exhibit De-Installation	Date & Time TBA

\* This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion; updated syllabi will be posted SacCT. I will alert you to changes via our course blog, SacCT announcements, & email.

**Recommended Readings (SacCT)** NOTE: *This corpus of work is available as inspiration for the weeks of concept development (\*) and for Week 13: Ethical and Legal issues (\*\*).*

\*Adams, Monni

2009 Both Sides of the Collecting Encounter: The George W. Harley Collection at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University. *Museum Anthropology* 32(1):17-32.

\*\*Bernstein, Bruce

2013 Consilience and Reconciling Knowledge Systems. *Museum Anthropology* 36(2):110-112.

\*\*Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Chip

2013 Repatriation and the Burdens of Proof. *Museum Anthropology* 36(2):108-109.

\*Eves, Richard

2000 Dr. Brown's Study: Methodist Missionaries and the Collection of Material Culture in the Pacific. *Museum Anthropology* 24(1):26-41.

\*Fenn, Catherine J.

1996 Life History of a Collection: The Tahltan Materials Collected by James A. Teit. *Museum Anthropology* 20(3):72-91.

\*\*Graham, Martha, and Nell Murphy

2010 NAGPRA at 20: Museum Collections and Reconnections. *Museum Anthropology* 33(2):105-124.

\*Hemenway, Eric

2010 Trials and Tribulations in a Tribal NAGPRA Program. *Museum Anthropology* 33(2):172-179.

\*\*Knowles, Lynda

2013 Notes from a Museum Lawyer. *Museum Anthropology* 36(2):109-110.

\*Magaris, Amy V. and Linda T. Grimm

2011 Collecting for a College Museum: Exchange Practices and the Life History of a 19th-Century Arctic Collection. *Museum Anthropology* 34(2):109-127.

\*Parezo, Nancy J.

2006 Collecting Diné Culture in the 1880s: Two Army Physicians and their Ethnographic Approaches. *Museum Anthropology* 29(2):95-117.

\*Rubel, Paula G., and Abraham Rosman

1996 George Brown, Pioneer Missionary and Collector. *Museum Anthropology* 20(1):60-68.

\*Washburn, Dorothy K.

1996 The User as Collector: Experiential Aspects of the Collecting Process. *Museum Anthropology* 20(3):92-100.