

Multiculturalism and the New Museology
UW Art History 600: Special Topics in Art History
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 - 12:15
L140 Elvehjem Building

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Office hours: Mondays 8:30 to 10:30 and by appointment

Course description: This course critically analyzes how the museum enterprise operates as a social agent in both reflecting and informing public culture. Students will gain an understanding of historical and current trends in museum studies and how these movements are impacted by shifting professional and popular standards. The significance of the object in various cultural contexts will be examined for evidence of paradigmatic core values. Topics include the collection and display of human beings as objects, the art/artifact debate, racist memorabilia, identity construction, indigenous curation methods, commodification and consumerism, repatriation, censorship and contested ideas about authenticity and authority. Case studies are drawn primarily from The United States and Canada and include the plantation museum, American Indian cultural centers, lynching postcards, Japanese internment camps and performance art. The relationship of the museum to a diverse public with often contested agendas will be explored through class discussions, independent student projects and written assignments.

Required texts:

Anderson, Gail, ed. Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary perspectives on the Paradigm Shift. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press. 2004. ISBN: 0-7591-0170-1

Eichstedt, Jennifer L. and Stephen Small. Representations of Slavery: Race and Ideology in Southern Plantation Museums. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press. 2002. ISBN: 1-58834-096-1

Mihesuah, Devon A. Repatriation Reader: Who Owns American Indian Remains? Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 2000. ISBN: 0-803208264-8

Required articles:

A course reader is available through the L&S Copy Center, 1650 Humanities (263-1803).

Assessment: Student Presentation (15%); Three Response Papers (20% each); Final Research Paper (25%). *Guidelines for written assignments will be distributed*

The course may be taken for graduate credit with approval of the instructor. In general, graduate students will be responsible for required and recommended readings as well as extended course assignments.

Each student will be expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions. Two or more absences will be grounds for subtracting points from your overall average. As a rule, I do not accept late work. In the rare and extenuating instance in which I may accept late work, the paper will be marked down accordingly. Extra credit is not offered.

Teaching philosophy and strategies: I strive to create a participatory classroom discussion setting, utilizing group work, short in-class written responses and student-led presentations. Individualized student research opportunities are encouraged and made available via papers and oral presentations. Active learning is sought, meaning honest self-reflection, questioning and real-world application grounded in careful reading and examination of the required texts.

Please note that the course addresses painful and sensitive issues of slavery, racism, sexism and genocide. In order for the course to be successful, students will be expected to exercise a high degree of intellectual and emotional maturity, respect for others and tolerance for diverse opinions. Civil discourse skills are required.

Week 1: September 4 and 6: What is the "New Museology"?

- **Introduction** - "A Cultural Inventory of the Classroom"
- **Required readings:**

Mesa-Bains, Amalia. "The Real Multiculturalism: A Struggle for Authority and Power." In Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Paradigm Shift, ed. Gail Anderson, 99-109. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2004.

Kreps, Christina F. "Introduction: Liberating Culture." In Liberating Culture: Cross-Cultural perspectives on Museums, Curation, and Heritage Preservation, 1-19. New York: Routledge, 2003.

Ames, Michael M. "Museums in the Age of Deconstruction." In Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Paradigm Shift, ed. Gail Anderson, 80-98. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2004.

**Week 2: Sept. 11 and 13: What is the "New Museology"?
continued...**

- **Required readings:**

Jones, Anna Laura. "Exploding Canons: The Anthropology of Museums." Annual Review of Anthropology 22(1993):201-220.

Cameron, Duncan F. "The Museum, a Temple or the Forum." In Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Paradigm Shift, ed. Gail Anderson, 61-73. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2004.

Gurian, Elaine Heumann. "What is the Object of this Exercise? A Meandering Exploration of the Many Meanings of Objects in Museums. In Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Paradigm Shift, ed. Gail Anderson, 269-283. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2004.

- **Recommended reading:**

Starn, Randolph. "A Historian's Brief Guide to the New Museum Studies." The American Historical Review 110, no.1 (2005): 68-98.

Week 3: Sept. 18 and 20: Historical Precedents

- **Required readings:**

Jacknis, Ira. "Franz Boas and Exhibits: On the Limitations of the Museum Method in Anthropology." In Objects and Others: Essays on Museums and Material Culture, ed. George

W. Stocking, Jr., 75-111. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1985.

Boas, Franz. "The Principles of Ethnological Classification." In A Franz Boas Reader, ed. George W. Stocking Jr., 61-67. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974.

Parezo, Nancy J. "The Formation of Ethnographic Collections: The Smithsonian Institution in the American Southwest." Advances in Archaeological Theory and Method 10 (1987): 1-37.

- **Recommended reading:**

Low, Theodore. "What is a Museum?" In Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Paradigm Shift, ed. Gail Anderson, 30-43. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2004.

Week 4: Sept. 25 and 27: Dehumanization: People as Objects

Response paper #1 due in class September 25th

- **Required readings:**

Abrahams, Yvette. "Race and Racism: Sarah Bartmann's Life in a Historical Context (1788/1789-1815)." Herstory Project - Institute for Historic Research, University of the Western Cape(2004).

Quereshi, Sadiyah. "Displaying Sara Baartman, The 'Hottentot Venus.'" History of Science 42 (June 2004): 233-257.

Chamley, Santorri. "All Because of a Pair of African Buttocks." New African (September 2000): 41-44.

Gilman, Sander L. "The Life and Times of Sara Baartman: The Hottentot Venus." American Historical Review, 105 (December 2000): 1849.

- **Film:**

Maseko, Zola. The Life and Times of Sara Baartman. Brooklyn, NY: First Run/Icarus Films, 1998.

- **Recommended reading:**

Morris, Alan G. "Trophy Skulls, Museums and the San." In Miscast: Negotiating the Presence of the Bushmen, ed. Pippa Skotnes, 67-79. Cape Town: University of Cape Town Press, 1996.

Week 5: October 2 and 4: Selective Representations

- **Required readings:**

Eichstedt, Jennifer L. and Stephen Small, Representations of Slavery: Race and Ideology in Southern Plantation Museums. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2002.

- **Recommended reading:**

Harrison, Faye V. "The Persistent Power of 'Race' in the Cultural and Political Economy of Racism." Annual Review of Anthropology. 24 (1995):47-74.

Week 6: Oct. 9 and 11: Subversive Representations

- **Required readings:**

Fraser, Andrea. "Museum Highlights: A Gallery Talk 1989." In Andrea Fraser Works: 1984-2003 ed. Yilmaz Dziewior, 244-253. Hamburg: Dumont, 2004.

Alberro, Alexander. "Introduction: Mimicry, Excess, Critique." In Museum Highlights: The Writings of Andrea Fraser, ed. Alexander Alberro, xxi-xxxvii. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2005.

Karp, Ivan and Fred Wilson. "Constructing the Spectacle of Culture in Museums." In Thinking About Exhibitions, eds. Reesa Greenberg, Bruce W. Ferguson and Sandy Nairne, 251-267. New York: Routledge, 1996.

Berger, Maurice and Fred Wilson. "Collaborations, Museums, and the Politics of Display: A Conversation with Fred Wilson." In Fred Wilson: Objects and Installations 1979-2000, Maurice Berger with contributions by Fred Wilson and Jennifer González,

32-39. Baltimore: Center for Art and Visual Culture, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 2001.

- **Recommended reading:**

Corrin, Lisa G. "Mining the Museum: An Installation Confronting History." In Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Paradigm Shift, ed. Gail Anderson, 248-256. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2004.

Week 7: Oct. 16 and 18: Hateful Things: Problematic Objects

- **Required readings:**

Litwack, Leon. "Hellhounds." In Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America, eds. James Allen et al, 8-37. Twin Palms, CA: Twin Palms, 2005.

Postal, Danny. "The Awful Truth: A Photography Exhibition Unearths the Painful History of Lynching in America." Chronicle of Higher Education July 12 (2002): A3.

Goings, Kenneth W. "The Birth and Adolescence of Aunt Jemima and Uncle Mose: Collectibles as Personifications of Stereotypes." In Mammy and Uncle Mose: Black Collectibles and American Stereotyping, 1-18. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

- **Film:**

Pilgrim, David and Clayton Rye. Jim Crow's Museum. Big Rapids, MI: Ferris State University, Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, 2004.

- **Recommended readings:**

Vendrys, Margaret Rose. "Hanging on Their Walls: An Art Commentary on Lynching; The Forgotten 1935 Art Exhibit." In Race Consciousness: African-American Studies for the New Century, ed. Judith Jackson Fossett and Jeffrey A. Tucker, 153-176. New York: NYU Press.

Hall, Jacquelyn Dowd. "The Mind That Burns in Each Body": Women, Rape and Racial Violence." In Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality, ed. Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson, 328-349. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1983.

Week 8: Oct. 23 and 25: Repatriation: Representations of Indian Bodies

Response paper #2 due in class October 23

• **Required readings:**

Monroe, Dan L and Walter Echo-Hawk. "Deft Deliberations." In Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Paradigm Shift, ed. Gail Anderson, 325-330. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2004.

Mihesuah, Devon A. "American Indians, Anthropologists, Pothunters, and Repatriation: Ethical, Religious, and Political Differences." In Repatriation Reader: Who Owns Indian Remains?, ed. by Devon A. Mihesuah, 95-105. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

Echo-Hawk, Walter R. and Jack F. Trope. "The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act: Background and Legislative History." In Repatriation Reader: Who Owns Indian Remains?, ed. by Devon A. Mihesuah, 123-168. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

• **Recommended reading:**

Moore, Steve. "Federal Indian Burial Policy - Historical Anachronism or Contemporary Reality?" Native American Rights Fund Legal Review 12, no.2 (Spring 1987):1-7.

Landau, Patricia M. and D. Gentry Steele. "Why Anthropologists Study Human Remains." In Repatriation Reader: Who Owns Indian Remains?, ed. by Devon A. Mihesuah, 74-94. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

Week 9: Oct. 30 and Nov. 1: Case Study: Repatriation at the Pueblo of Zuni

- **Required readings:**

Ferguson, T.J., Roger Anyon, and Edmund J. Ladd.
"Repatriation at the Pueblo of Zuni: Diverse Solutions to Complex Problems." In Repatriation Reader: Who Owns Indian Remains?, ed. by Devon A. Mihesuah, 239-265. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

- **Film:**

Ladd, Edmund J. Repatriation at the Pueblo of Zuni. VHS. Santa Fe: Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, The Museum of New Mexico, 1989.

- **Recommended reading:**

Eco-Hawk, Walter R. "Museum Rights vs. Indian Rights: Guidelines for Assessing Competing Legal Interests in Native Cultural Resources." New York Review of Law & Social Change XIV, no.2 (1986): 437-453.

Merrill, William L., Edmund J. Ladd, and T.J. Ferguson. "The Return of the Ahayu:da: Lessons for Repatriation from Zuni Pueblo and the Smithsonian Institution." Current Anthropology 24, no. 5 (December 1993): 523-568.

Week 10: Nov. 6 and 8: Negotiations and Self-Representations

Response paper #3 due in class November 6th

- **Readings:**

Warren, Karen J. "A Philosophical Perspective on the Ethics and Resolution of Cultural Properties Issues." In Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Paradigm Shift, ed. Gail Anderson, 303-324. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2004.

Ames, Michael M. "How To Decorate A House: The Renegotiation of Cultural Representations at the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology." In Museums and Source Communities, ed. Laura Peers and Alison K. Brown, 171-180. New York: Routledge, 2003.

Week 11: Nov. 13 and 15: Negotiations and Self-Representations continued...

- **Required readings:**

Yoo, David. "Captivating Memories: Museology, Concentration Camps, and Japanese American History." American Quarterly 48, no. 4 (1996): 680-699.

Smithsonian National Museum of American History online resource:
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/perfectunion/experience/>.
"A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution." 1990 - 2001.

Week 12: Nov. 20; (Nov. 22: No Class: Thanksgiving Break) Minority Museums

- **Required reading:**

Clifford, James. "Four Northwest Coast Museums: Travel Reflections." In Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display, ed. Ivan Karp and Steven D. Lavine, 212-254. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian, 1991.

- **Film:**

Olin, Chuck and U'mista Cultural Center. Box of Treasures. Watertown, MA: Documentary Educational Resources, 1983.

Week 13: Nov. 27 and Nov. 29 No class - Research paper preparation

Week 14: Dec. 4 and 6: Student Presentations

Attendance will be taken.

Week 15: Dec. 11 and 13: Student Presentations

Attendance will be taken.

Final Papers are due on the day of your scheduled presentation. No extensions are granted.