

Museums, Culture & Society

Fall 2007

Anthropology 176(1); MWF 11 am; Mendocino Hall 4008

Dr. Castaneda (tac@csus.edu);

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Office: Mendocino 4028; Phone 278-6067

Office Hrs: WF 1-2:30 (*check the Anthropology Museum if I'm not in my office*)

Required Texts:

Kreps, Christina

2003 *Liberating Culture: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Museums, Curation, and Heritage Preservation*. New York: Routledge.

Price, Sally

2001 *Primitive Art in Civilized Places* (2nd ed.) University of Chicago Press.

Recommended Texts:

Asma, Stephen T.

2001 **Stuffed Animals and Pickled Heads: the Culture and Evolution of Natural History Museums*. Oxford University Press. **available in the Hornet Bookstore*

Karp, Ivan & Steven Lavine, (eds.)

1991 *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Supplementary Readings:

These are delivered to you in two forms: Reserve Readings (RR) can be located in the library reserve room. LOCUS Readings will be made available to you as PDF files or via stable URLs. (See explanation of LOCUS on next page).

Course Description* & Objectives: This course offers a critical analysis of museum anthropology from a social and historical perspective. Lectures, readings, discussion, and independent research will prepare students to: 1) comprehend the historical relationship between western European expansionism, natural history collections and early anthropology, 2) critically examine the role of museums as venues for the formation and reproduction of nationalist and other categories of collective cultural identity, 3) evaluate museums and exhibits as cultural texts and representations, 4) identify the financial and political challenges facing contemporary museums and the diverse communities they serve.

**CSUS Catalog Description: Provides an introduction to museum anthropology. Surveys the emergence of modern anthropology from its origins in 17th century natural history expeditions, collections, and systems of classification to its late 19th century institutionalization in museums; explores the role of collectors, curators and financial patrons in the simultaneous development of museums and social theory; examines the contemporary poetics and politics of museums and cultural interpretation, including cultural property rights, cultural self-representation, collaborative exhibit development, and the ethnography of museums. Prerequisite: ANTH 002 or ANTH 102. 3 units.*

Course Requirements: Attendance, completion of readings and all assignments and exams, meaningful participation in class discussion. (Each student will be required to be a discussion facilitator for at least one class period; everyone should be prepared to respond to reading-related questions.)

Course Evaluation: two midterm exams comprised of objective and essay questions (25% each); one museum/exhibition review, approximately 3-4 pp. (25%); and a research paper (10-12 pp.) with oral presentation (25%). Instructions for the museum review and the research paper will be provided under separate cover (see LOCUS, below).

Grading Scale: A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F=59% or below.

Make-up/Late Paper Policy—Make-up exams (given excused absences for extremely compelling reasons, and only 1 per semester) must be taken in the testing center in Lassen Hall. Late exhibit reviews or research papers will be marked down 10 points for each (class) day late. No exceptions.

Cell Phones & Pagers—Please turn these off during class, unless you have an emergency and notify me ahead of time. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Academic Dishonesty—Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will result in permanent dismissal from class. See the description of plagiarism found on the library homepage.

LOCUS — I will use LOCUS, <http://locus.csus.edu/locus2005/index.php>, to help manage this course, to deliver assignments to you, and to make some reserve readings available to you either electronically (or through PDF files). **You will need to login using your saclink username and password. After this, you will need to enroll in the class** using (again) your saclink account and the password for our course: _____. (FYI—a link to LOCUS can be found on the main library page, lower left hand corner.)

Reserve Readings: (Also see "LOCUS Readings," below).

Alpers, Svetlana

- 1991 "The Museum as a Way of Seeing" in *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*. Karp, Ivan and Steven Lavine, editors, Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Asma, Stephen T.

- 2001 "Flesh-Eating Beetles and the Secret Art of Taxidermy" **Chpt. 1** in *Stuffed Animals and Pickled Heads*. Oxford University Press.

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"Peter the Great's Mysterious Jars: How to Pickle a Human Head and Other Great Scientific Achievement of the Scientific Revolution, **Chpt. 2** in *Stuffed Animals and Pickled Heads*. Oxford University Press.

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"Exhibiting Evolution: Diversity, Order and the Construction of Nature, **Chpt. 5** in *Stuffed Animals and Pickled Heads*. Oxford University Press.

Boon, James

- 1991 "Why Museums Make Me Sad" in *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*. Karp, Ivan and Steven Lavine, editors, Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Duncan, Carol

- 1991 "Art Museums and the Ritual of Citizenship" in *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*. Karp, Ivan and Steven Lavine, editors, Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Henare, Amiria J. M.

- 2005 "Objects of Exploration." In *Museums, Anthropology, and Imperial Exchange* by Amiria J.M. Henare (Pp. 18-48). New York: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Hinsely, Curtis

- 1991 "The World as Marketplace: The Commodification of the Exotic at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893"

Jacknis, Ira

- 1998 "Franz Boas and Exhibits: On the Limitations of the Museum Method of Anthropology," in *Objects and Others* George Stocking (ed). University of Wisconsin Press.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara

- 1998 "Objects of Ethnography." In *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums and Heritage*. Pp. 17-78. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Myers, Fred

- 2001 "The Wizards of Oz: Nation, State, and the Production of Aboriginal Fine Art" Pp. 165-204 in *The Empire of Things*, edited by Fred Myers. Santa Fe: SAR Press.

LOCUS READINGS, NEXT PAGE

LOCUS Readings (available online as PDFs)

Abram, Ruth J.

- 2007 "Kitchen Conversations: Democracy in Action at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum," *The Public Historian*, Vol. 29, No. 1: 59-76.

Asma, Stephen T.

- 2007 "Dinosaurs on the Ark: the Creation Museum" in *The Chronicle Review*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 18, 2007.

Benhamou, Francoise and Nathalie Moureau

- 2006 "From Ivory Towers to Museums Open to the Community: Changes and Developments in France's Policy." *Museum International (UNESCO)* Vol. 58, No. 4, pp. 21-28.

Castilla, Americo

- 2006 "A Review of a Cultural Policy for Museum of the Twenty-first Century in Argentina." *Museum International (UNESCO)* Vol. 58, No. 4, pp. 44-53.

Cuir, Raphael

- 2005 "Gunther Von Hagens, Inventor and Imitator: A Response to Uli Linke." *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 21, No. 5: 20-22.

Launius, Roger D.

- 2007 "American Memory, Culture Wars, and the Challenge of Presenting Science and Technology in a National Museum." *The Public Historian*, Vol. 29, No. 1: 13-30.

Linke, Uli

- 2005 "Touching the Corpse: The Unmaking of Memory in the Body Museum." *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 21, No. 5: 13-19.

"Art for Art's Sake: A Response to Raphael Cuir." *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 21, No. 5: 23.

McIntyre, Darryl

- 2006 "The National Museum of Australia and Public Discourse: the Role of Public Policies in the Nation's Cultural Debates." *Museum International (UNESCO)* Vol. 58, No. 4., pp. 13-20.

Moutu, Andrew

- 2007 "Pasifika Styles: A Polyphonic Collage at the University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology." *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 23, No. 2: 24-25.

Course Schedule *

Week	Dates	Reading Assignments
<i>Part I – Objects of Exploration; Legacies of Empire</i>		
1	9/5-7	Course Orientation;
2	9/10-12-14	Henare (RR); Hinsley (RR)
3	9/17-19-21	Jacknis (RR); Boon (RR)
4	9/24-26-28	Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (RR); Alpers (RR)
5	10/1-3-5	Price: <i>Primitive Art in Civilized Places</i> (Intro-Chpt. 4)
Monday	10/8	Museum Opening — <i>Stop by from Noon-2 in lieu of class</i>
6	10/10-12	Price (Chpts. 5-8)
7	10/15	Review for Midterm
7	10/17	Midterm
<i>Part II: Heritage, Identity, and the Politics of Museum Interpretation</i>		
7	10/19	<i>Nationalist Narratives</i> : Benhamou & Moreau; Castilla; McIntyre (all on LOCUS)
8	10/22-24	Abram (LOCUS)
8	10/26	NO CLASS in lieu of California Indian Conference
9	10/29-31;	Duncan (RR); Myers (RR); Moutou (LOCUS)
9	11/2	Research Paper Topics Due Kreps: Chpts. 1-2
10	11/5-7-9	Kreps: Chpts. 3-4
	11/12	Veterans Day Holiday
11	11/14-16	Kreps: Chpts. 5-6 Research Paper Draft Outlines & Annotated Bibliographies due
<i>Part III: Contemporary Issues</i>		
12	11/19-21	<i>Interpreting Nature & Science</i> : Asma 2001, Chpts. 1, 2, & 5 (RR), and Asma 2007 (LOCUS).
Friday	11/23	Thanksgiving Holiday
13	11/26-28	<i>NASM</i> : Launius 2007; <i>The Body as Art & Science</i> : Linke 2005, Cuir 2005, Linke 2005a (all on LOCUS)
	11/30	Museum/Exhibition Review Due (<i>in paper & for discussion in Class</i>). <i>Format to be posted on LOCUS.</i>
Monday	12/3	Midterm Exam II
14	12/5-7	Begin Oral Presentations of Research Papers
15	12/10-12-14	Oral Presentations
16	12/19	(Finals Week) Research Papers Due @ 10:15 am (in my office—the Anthropology Office CANNOT accept papers.

* This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.