

Museums, Culture & Society

Anthropology 176(1); Fall 2009

T/TH 10:30-11:45 am; Mendocino Hall 4008

Dr. Castaneda tac@csus.edu (email read during office hours)

Web page: www.csus.edu/indiv/c/castanedat

Office: Mendocino 4028; Phone 278-6067

Office Hrs: T 9-10:30; W 1:15-2:45 and by appt.

NOTE: I will not hold office hours due to furlough on 9/29 (T), 10/26 (M) and 11/3 (T).

Required Texts:

Ames, Michael

1992 *Cannibal Tours and Glass Boxes: the Anthropology of Museums.*
Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

Asma, Stephen T.

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

Henare, Amiria J. M.

2005 *Museums, Anthropology, and Imperial Exchange.* New York: Cambridge
University Press.

Krech, Shepard, III and Barbara A. Hail, editors

1999 *Collecting Native America, 1870-1960.* 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 in hardcopy only. LOCUS Readings will be made available to you as PDF files or via stable URLs found on our LOCUS course page (See explanation of LOCUS on next page).

Course 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 146 or instructor permission. 3 units.*

Course Requirements—Attendance, completion of all assignments and exams, and 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—Three exams, including two midterms (objective/short answer/identification) and a non-comprehensive (objective only) final exam will each count for 25% of your grade; the final 25% of your course grade will be based upon museum visitation projects (these will include field notes, brief essays, and in-class presentations for undergrads, and portfolios for grads). (NOTE: *Graduate students grades will be calculated in alternate format: exams —20% each, museum visit portfolios—20%, and graduate reading facilitation 20%.*)

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% and 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 museum field notes & essays (undergrads) or portfolios (grads) will be marked down 10 points for each day late. Missed in-class museum-visit presentations and discussions cannot be made-up. No exceptions.

Cell Phones & Pagers—Please remember to 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 any other forms of cheating will result in a zero on the assignment and may well 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 readings available to you through either stable URLs or as 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, upper left hand corner.)

LIBRARY RESERVE READINGS

Alpers, Svetlana

- 1991 "The Museum as a Way of Seeing" in *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*. Pp. 25-32. Ivan Karp and Steven Lavine (ed.s), 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*. Pp. 89-103. Ivan Karp and Steven Lavine (ed.s), Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Hinsely, Curtis

- 1991 "The World as Marketplace: The Commodification of the Exotic at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893," in *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*. Pp. 344-364. Ivan Karp and Steven Lavine (ed.s), Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara

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

LOCUS READINGS

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, Françoise and Nathalie Moureau

- 2006 "From Ivory Towers to Museums Open to the Community: Changes and Developments in France's Policy." *Museum International (UNESCO)* 58 (4): 21-28.

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.

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(4): 13-20.

GRAD STUDENT SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

Bennett, Tony (LOCUS)—**WEEK 13**

- 2006 "Civic Seeing: Museums and the Organization of Vision" in *A Companion to Museum Studies*. Sharon MacDonald, ed., Pp. 263-281. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Haraway, Donna (LOCUS)—**WEEK 3**

- 1984 "Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936." *Social Text* No. 11, pp. 20-64.
(Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/466593>)

Jones, Anna Laura—(LOCUS) **WEEK 11**

- 1993 "Exploding Canons: The Anthropology of Museums." *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 22: 201-220. (Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2155846>)

Course Schedule *

| Week | Dates | Reading Assignments |
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| <i>Origins & Legacies</i> | | |
| Part I: Ordering the World | | |
| 1 | 9/1 9/3 | Course Orientation Asma—1, Ames—2 |
| 2 | 9/8 9/10 | Asma—2, 3 Asma-5, NYT article |
| 3 | 9/15 9/17 | Asma—7; <i>Grad Students Only</i> —Haraway (LOCUS) Asma—2007 (LOCUS) |
| Part II: Museum Anthropology | | |
| 4 | 9/22 9/24 | Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (RR) ; Alpers (RR) Hinsley (RR) Ames—4 |
| 5 | 9/29 <i>Instructor Furloughed</i> 10/1 | <i>Class dismissed for art OR science museum visit-assignment posted to LOCUS.</i> Class presentations & discussion |
| <i>At the Crossroads of Empire & Anthropology</i> | | |
| Part III: Collectors & Founders | | |
| 6 | 10/6 10/8 | Hail & Krech—Introduction and Chpt. 1 H&K—2, 3 and 4 |
| 7 | 10/13 10/15 | H&K—5, 6 and 7 H&K—8 and 9 |
| 8 | 10/20 | Midterm Exam #1 |
| Part IV: Material Culture & Museum Ethnography | | |
| 8 | 10/22 | Henare—1 and 2 |
| 9 | 10/27 10/29 | Henare—3 and 4 Henare—5 |
| 10 | 11/3 <i>Instructor Furloughed</i> 11/5 | <i>Class dismissed for anthropology/ethnology/natural history museum or exhibit visit; assignment posted to LOCUS.</i> Class presentations & discussion |
| 11 | 11/10 11/12 | Henare—6 and 7; <i>Grad Students Only</i> —Jones (LOCUS) Henare—8, Ames—6 and 7 |
| 12 | 11/17 11/19 | Henare—9, Ames—8 Midterm Exam #2 |

Museums & Contemporary Statecraft

Part V: Materializing and Embodying Peoplehood

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| 13 | 11/24 | Duncan (RR); <i>Grad Students Only</i> —Bennett (LOCUS) |
| 13 | 11/26 | Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class |
| 14 | 12/1 | Benhamou & Moreau; McIntyre (all on LOCUS) <i>See assignment for final museum visit (California Museum or State Capitol Museum) on LOCUS</i> |
| | 12/3 | Ames—11; Abram (LOCUS) |
| 15 | 12/8 | Ames—14; Launius (LOCUS) |
| | 12/10 | Grad Student Portfolios Due; Class presentations & discussion |
| 16 | 12/17 | Final Exam (Thursday 10:15-11:15) |

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