ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE MUSEUM

Week 1  Jan. 15  Getting acquainted; goals and core concepts of the course

HOW COLLECTIONS TAKE SHAPE IN THE PAST…

Week 2  Jan. 22  Just what is a museum anyway?

Banks, Marcus
[consider the evident surface of objects against evidence of their history]

Gosden, Chris and Frances Larson
[think about museums as sets of networks among people]

Pearce, Susan M.
[think about things out there in the world, and the sub-set in the museum]

Thomas, Nicholas
[consider alternatives of moving from questions to objects, or from objects to questions]

Week 3  Jan. 29  Says Who? Documentation and Attribution

Greene, Candace S.
[focus on the concepts bound up in attribution and documentation]
Sturtevant, William C.
[consider what concerns computerization has and hasn’t resolved in 50+ years]

Guide to Collections Records, Ethnology and Archaeology Collections. Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology.
[read this one carefully; keep it for continual reference]

Week 4 Feb. 5 Surely there must be more…: Enhancing Museum Records

Grafe, Steven
[look at how he gathered information, how he used it to construct collection history]

Hollinger, Eric R.
2003 Inventory and Assessment of Human Remains and Funerary Objects Potentially Affiliated with the Menominee Tribe in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Unpublished report, Repatriation Office, NMNH.
[Focus on pages 21-47. Make a list of the types of sources used – with awesome results]

Norcini, Marilyn
[look at types of information gathered to support an intellectual history]

Week 5 Feb. 12 How did they end up here? Building Context of Collecting

O’Hanlon, Michael.
[think about how collecting was influenced – before, during, after “the scene”]

Foster, Robert
[try to envision similar networks extending out around your own collection]
Lawson, Barbara
[focus on how museum systems “isolate” objects and “obfuscate” histories]

Bell, Joshua A.

Week 6  Feb. 19  Artifacts at Home: Understanding Context of Use

Banerjee, Mukulika and Daniel Miller
[think about the complex sentiments of a person using an object]

Rhoads, Bernadine, Herwona Toyobo and Beatrice Ahpeahtone Doyah Smith
[think about the types of information people can provide about heritage objects]

Week 7  Feb. 26  Learning to Look

Greene, Candace S.
1992  Attribution, Documentation…
[revisit this article from Wk. 3, focusing here on the process of attribution]

Greene, Candace S.
[look at steps in identification, examining construction and embellishment]

Prown, Jules
[focus on methodology of description, deduction, speculation, pp.7-12]
Week 8       Mar. 5   Complicated Lives: Artifacts as Facts

Appadurai, Arjun
[a classic considering museum objects as commodities of value]

Kopytoff, Igor
[consider object biography as a method to explicate regimes of value]

Phillips, Ruth
[look at how objects interrupt and complicate conventional narratives]

-------------------------------------------SPRING BREAK-------------------------------------------

…but carry meaning in the present

Week 9       Mar. 19   Repatriation: Applying Knowledge to NAGPRA

Hollinger, Eric R., Betsy Bruemmer and Anne-Marie Victor-Howe
2005   Assessment of Tlingit Objects Requested for Repatriation as Objects of Cultural Patrimony and Sacred Objects in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Unpublished report, Repatriation Office, NMNH. This will be provided in hard copy. Focus on pages 1-25.
[look esp. at complexity of determining communal property and right of possession]

NAGPRA, law and regulations, available at http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/

Week 10      Mar. 26   Visiting with the dead: Physical Anthropology

No readings assigned.
Week 11  Apr. 2  Records Systems: Putting Things into Boxes

Edwards, Elizabeth and Janice Hart
[think about the impact of various classificatory schemes on ways of understanding; what types of boxes are used to order collections]

Newell, Jenny
[use this to think through the place of online images as surrogates]

Phillips, Ruth and Christopher Steiner
[the biggest box of all is the museum – consider what gets into what type of museum]

Week 12  Apr. 9  Who Cares? Identity, Ownership, & “Museumification”

Ames, Michael
[an early wakeup call on the politics of representing “others”]

Brown, Michael F.
[issues and challenges in the domain of cultural privacy]

McMullen, Ann
[on-the-ground examination of cultural politics of “doing the right thing”]

Week 13  Apr. 16  Student Presentations

Week 14  Apr. 23  Student Presentations

Apr. 30  FINAL REPORTS DUE