ANTH 5720 Museums and Anthropology (2016-2017)
Teacher: Dr. Sharon Wong Wai-yee
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Lecture: Thursday 10:30am-12:15 pm, Swire Hall 2
Tutorial: Thursday, 12:30-1:15pm, Swire Hall 1

Course Outline
Museums are important institutions and serve the economic, social and political needs of contemporary societies. This course aims to study the issues on museology and museography from anthropological perspectives. What is a museum? Why museums are established? Who need museums? The course will examine the origin, classification, structure, function and practice of museums with examples come from art, history, and anthropology exhibits in worldwide, and students are encouraged to find their own examples. The course will introduce the collection, management, exhibition design, techniques in museums, discuss museums and digital technology, analyze how national identities and gender are constructed and enhanced through exhibitions, and discuss roles played by different stakeholders of museums from the (inter)national, regional and local communities.

Major contents of this course
1. What is a museum? Why do museums occur? Who need museums?
2. The cultural contexts and classification of modern museums
3. Basic practices of museums: acquisition, documentation, preservation, exhibition design, presentation, education and research
4. Museology from an anthropological perspective: collection and colonialism; exhibition and stereotyping, identity construction and gender interpretation; the social inclusion and other roles of modern museums; museums and digital technology
5. Museum in the 21st century- debates on its cultural, economic, social and political roles

Learning outcomes
After taking this course, students are expected to:
- understand the basic functions of museums;
- understand the economic, social and political roles played by museums in contemporary societies;
- have a basic knowledge on museum practices from exhibition design to visitor study;
develop the ability to integrate data from different disciplines and present data in a well organized manner;

- cultivate the ability of critical thinking, particularly through analyzing exhibition contents.

Learning activities
2-hour lectures and 1-hour tutorial per week for one semester, including a museum field trip in Hong Kong

Course Assessment
(1) Participation and discussion in the tutorials (20%)  
(2) Mid-term report, approximately 20 pages (40%)
Student will be required to write 20 pages individual paper on a study of the missions, and the ways it is illustrated through the collections, building and exhibition design, etc. of a selected museum (Due date 13th March, Monday, 5pm)

(3) Final paper, approximately 20 pages (40%)
Student will be required to write 20 pages individual paper on a study of selected topic(s) from lecture 9-15 of selected museum(s) (Due date 4th May, Thursday, 5pm)

Lecture topics and reading materials
NB: Required readings are essential for the lectures and tutorial. Students are expected to finish all the weekly readings before the lecture and tutorial.

Medium of instruction
Cantonese

Submissions & academic honesty
The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on academic honesty, and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating in examinations and plagiarism. Any such offence will lead to disciplinary action including possibly termination of studies at the University. Students should know how to properly use source material and how to avoid plagiarism.

As required by the university, from Sept. 2008, students must submit a soft copy of their computer-generated text assignments to VeriGuide at a specified URL. The system will issue a receipt containing a declaration of honesty statement. Students should sign the receipt, print a hard copy of their assignment, and submit the hard copy and the receipt to teachers for grading. The university says that assignments without the receipt will NOT be graded.
Please check the website "Honesty in Academic Work" at: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/ for more information on plagiarism and on how to submit papers through VeriGuide

Lecture Topics

Week 1 (12th Jan.)
Introduction: What is a museum? Definition, objectives, classification and structures of modern museums

Required Readings:
ICOM 2007. ICOM Statutes. Vienna: 21nd General Assembly of ICOM.

Week 2 (19th Jan.)
The occurrence of museums: Historical background and issues for the birth of museums

Required Readings:

Week 3 (26th Jan.)
Museums, power, capital and class: A comparative study of the founding and development of museums in China and Europe

Required Readings:

**Week 4 (no lecture 2nd Feb.) Public Holiday: Chinese New Year Holiday**

**Week 5 (9th Feb.)**
Museums and buildings: Discuss buildings, symbolic structures, the environments of museums, and the relationship between buildings, museums and preservations

**Required Readings:**
徐明福 2001《英法博物館建築之旅》35-49，96-117，148-164 頁。台南：台灣建築與文化資產出版社。

**Week 6 (16th Feb.)**
Basic practices of museums: acquisition, documentation and preservation

**Required Readings:**

**Week 7 (23rd Feb.)**
Exhibition design: constructing the framework and engaging visitor involvement

**Required Readings:**

**Week 8 (2nd Mar.)**
Presentation and Exhibition techniques

**Required Readings:**
Lord, Barry and Gail Lord. 2014. The Manual of Museum Exhibitions. Walnut Creek,
CA: AltaMira Press, pp.293-338.

鄭建榮 2014 《博物館展示規劃經驗之要點》，《陶博館研究集刊 2013-2014》，新北：新北市立鶯歌陶瓷博物館，88-97 頁。


**Mid-term Report: completed report with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to Dept. Office by 5pm Monday, 13th March.

Week 9 (9th Mar.)
Education and research: Museum as (in)formal education institute; Should museums conduct research?

Required Readings:

Week 10 (16th Mar.)
Museum, identity and civil society

Required Readings:

Week 11 (23rd Mar.)
Museum and gender

Required Readings:


**Week 12 (30th Mar.)**
Ecomuseum and its roles

**Required Readings:**

**Week 13 (6th Apr.)**
Museums and (inter)national politics

**Required Readings:**

**Week 14 (13th Apr.)**
Museums and digital technology

**Required Readings:**
Week 15 (20th Apr.)
Museums in the 21st century: marketing, globalization and cultural diversity

Required Readings:

**Final Paper:** completed paper with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to Dept. Office by 5pm Thursday, 4th May.