

DC Semester Program

Fall 2021

Museums and Cultural Heritage in the Nation's Capital

Taught by Professor Jennifer Kahn

Management of museums and cultural heritage properties in the 21st century entails complex negotiations among indigenous, local, and government stakeholders within a federal political system. Cultural heritage is broadly defined as pre-contact (pre-European arrival) objects, landscapes, monuments, and archaeological sites, which enrich our understanding of cultural origins and diversity. The relationship of material culture - gathered, captured and exchanged during a time of colonial enterprise and imperialist expansion - to the rise of Anthropology and its interactions with indigenous and colonized peoples, has only recently been considered by scholars, both in the academy, in museums, and in the field of heritage preservation. This semester will consider the challenges faced by museums and cultural heritage foundations as these institutions re-imagine their function as archives, places of learning, diversity, and entertainment, along with recent research.

Washington Program Internship

- *6 credit hours: INTR 499*

The main goals of the internship work will be to encourage students to reflect upon how the themes discussed in the courses are applicable to their internship organization, and develop deliverables for their organization vis a vis cultural heritage management and preservation in the U.S. and abroad. Potential internship opportunities include: museums like **Smithsonian Museums** and **local museums**; journalism sites like **National Geographic**, **Discovery Channel**, **Archaeology Magazine**, **NPR**; governmental organizations like the **National Register of Historic Places**, the **National Parks Service**, the **Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs**, **UNESCO**, the **Presidential Committee on Arts and Humanities**, the **National Endowment for the Arts**; and non-profits like the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, the **Ford Foundation**, and **Partners for Liveable Communities**.

The Politics of Representation: Exhibition, Film and Material Culture

- *4 credit hours: ANTH 350 (GER 4B, COLL 200, possible cross-listing with American Studies, History, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Studies, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies)*

This course will explore literature on the collection and display of material culture, cultures, and their art and artifacts. Students will explore the myriad of ways in which museum exhibits historically have been influenced by their larger social contexts, particularly with respect to the ways in which indigenous cultures, minorities, and genders have been represented. In addition, the course will expose students to anthropological field methodology and will incorporate perspectives from a broad range of humanities disciplines.

U.S Cultural Heritage Management in the 21st Century

- *4 credit hours: ANTH 350 (COLL 200, possible cross-listings with American Studies, History, ENSP)*

The preservation and management of cultural heritage in the U.S. involves complex negotiations between indigenous, local, and government stakeholders within a federal political system. In this course, students will have the opportunity to interact with people who make, frame, interpret, and respond to changing cultural heritage. We will visit museums, monuments, and heritage spaces in DC along with inviting speakers who create and manage cultural heritage properties, professionals working in the media who can comment about the evolution of the cultural preservation and cultural tourism field, indigenous activists, and cultural heritage experts who monitor U.S. and international legislation, education, and outreach.