2012 SIMA Syllabus

* Indicates readings to be discussed in a session.  
Other readings are general preparation for the session.  
Notes regarding points of particular importance to the lesson are indicated in brackets.

Saturday check-in and welcome

Week 1   ORIENTATION TO THE FIELD SITE

Lesson #1, NMNH Orientation and Walkabout

Lesson #2, Program Overview  (Greene and Parezo)
* Grant proposal to NSF for support of SIMA.
  [focus on description of material culture and museum based research as part of cultural Anthropology, the types of questions it can address, and goals for the training program]

Gosden, Chris and Frances Larson  
[consider collections as the material residue of particular sets of social relationships]

* Greene, Candace S.  
[focus on assumptions about culture that inform ideas of ‘documentation’ or ‘attribution’]

Lawson, Barbara  
[focus on how museum records can isolate objects and obfuscate their history]

Sturtevant, William  
[focus on issues of documentation – not that museums really needed to get computers]

* Thomas, Nicholas  
[consider alternatives of moving from questions to objects, or from objects to questions]
Lesson #3a, Methods from My Research (Greene)
Greene, Candace S.
[quantitative study based on hundreds of items]

2009  One Hundred Summers: A Kiowa Calendar Record. University of Nebraska Press. (selections)
[qualitative study based on work with community members plus archival sources]

2012  unpublished article on drawing by Wohaw
[application of different perspectives to a single item]

Lesson #3b, Methods from My Research (Parezo)

Lesson #4, EMu Database Orientation (Greene, Beauchamp)

Lesson #5, Collections Resources: Artifacts (Greene)
*  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]

Jones, Reba

Lesson #6, NAA Orientation

Lesson #7, Collections Resources: Archives (Parezo)

Lesson #8, Methods from My Research (Bell)
Bell, Joshua A.
[methods for study of material culture in the field]

[engaging source communities; photo elicitation]

Lesson #9, Photographing Collections (NMNH Photographer Don Hurlbert)

Lesson #10, Collections Notes (Greene and Parezo)
Sanjek, Roger

Lesson #11, Weekly Data Collection Plans (Greene)
Lesson #12, Meet and Greet with Smithsonian Resource People

Lesson #13, Methods from My Research (Jackson)

Boas, Franz
[The opening salvo in the Boas-Mason-Powell debate on typological versus historical presentation in museums.]

Kroeber, A. L.
[A textbook account of distributions in the anthropological study of culture history.]

Dundes, Alan
[A comparative folklorist introduces various comparative strategies, comparing and contrasting folklore and cultural anthropology in their use.]

Jackson, Jason Baird and Raymond D. Fogelson
[A localized introduction to culture areas as conceptual units and to the culture area where I work. Touches on one of my in-class case studies.]

*Choose one of the following three readings based on your topical interest*

Jackson, Jason Baird
[My interests reflected in a consideration of a ritualized game in context and in light of its regional distribution]

[My interests reflected in a consideration of a medicinal plant in context and in light of its regional distribution]

Jackson Jason Baird and Victoria Levine
[My interests reflected in a consideration of a music and dance performance form in context and in light of its regional distribution]

Lesson #14, Growing and Changing Your Project (Nichols, Godby Ingalsbe)

Readings: Original SIMA Project Proposals, grant proposals
Lesson #15, Close Looking: Single Objects
Part 1: In the Classroom (Greene)
* Banks, Marcus
[think how to apply his analysis of a postcard to museum objects]

Caple, Chris
[consider what technical analyses can reveal]

* Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan
1890  The Science of Deduction. In Sign of Four.
PDF made from text at http://www.literature.org/authors/doyle-arthur-conan/sign-of-four/chapter-01.html
<accessed 9 May 2012>.  
[not just for fun – we’ll discuss this one]

Prown, Jules David
[another systematic way to approach objects; consider whether observations are answers or questions to apply to further sets of objects]

Part 2: In the Collections (Jackson, McMullen, Bell, Greci-Green)

Lesson #16, Smithsonian Folklife Festival (Godby Ingalsbe)
Glassie, Henry
[how is doing ethnographic work with the people who make and use objects similar or different to the kinds of research we can do with objects alone]

Kurin, Richard.
[an official introduction to the Festival]
Lesson #17, Material Culture in/and Cultural Performance (Jackson)
* Babcock, Barbara

* Bauman, Richard

* Stoeltje, Beverly J.

Lesson #18, Looking at Assemblages: African Baskets (Arnoldi)
* Arth, Kim
2005 Keeping Traditions: Change, Innovation and Continuity in Kenyan Kyondo Baskets (MA Thesis) [general background for work with baskets collected by Arth]

Lesson #19, Distinguished Lectures in Anthropology (Jackson)

Lesson #20, SEMINAR (Bell)
Edwards, E. and J. Hart

* Morton, Christopher and Elizabeth Edwards

Pinney, Christopher
Lesson #21, Methods from My Research (Kramer)
*Kramer, Jennifer

[From Bella Coola ceremonial masks to museum aesthetics to Nuxalk cultural property]

Seip, Lisa P.
[A case study of doing a life history of a Nuxalk mask]

Lesson #22, The Collector Affect (Parezo and Greene)
Bernard, H. Russell

* Greene, Candace S.
[background on James Mooney as collector]

Welsch, Robert L.

Lesson #23, Researching and Exhibiting Kesu’ (Doug Cranmer) (Kramer)
*Kramer, Jennifer

[On the process of researching Doug Cranmer’s life after his death and the challenge of representing the man]

Cranmer Webster, Gloria
[A sister’s recollection of Doug, his role as a hereditary chief and his art production]

Laforet, Andrea
[About a Kwakwaka’wakw/Wuikenux totem pole and house front restored and replicated by Doug Cranmer and Bruce Alfred for the Grand Hall of Northwest Coast Peoples at the Canadian Museum of Civilization]

Lesson #24, Research Funding:
Guest Speaker Deborah Winslow, NSF Cultural Anthropology Program Officer
* Dissertation Improvement Abstracts on NSF Site
    Michael Jordan NSF Proposal
    Catherine Nichols Wenner Gren Proposal

Lesson #25, Understanding Bias (Parezo)
Bernard, H. Russell

Freed, Stanley A.

Lesson #26, Research Ethics (Greene)

Lesson #27, Distinguished Lectures in Museum Anthropology – Jennifer Kramer
Lesson #28, From Museum to Field: Working with Source Communities (Kramer and Greene)
McMullen, Ann

Lesson #29, Methods to Move Your Project Forward (Parezo)
Bernard, H. Russell
[Focus on the information you need to set up your databases once you return home. Have you got all the information you need?]

*Harper, Douglas
[focus on the types of analyses being done and think creatively about your own data and your project]

Lesson #29, Next Steps (Research Strategies) (Parezo)
McLendon, Sally

Lesson #30, Final Symposium with Student Presentations

Lesson #31, SIMA Course Evaluation

RUNNING THROUGHOUT PROGRAM

Individual advising on research project

Individual data collection, based on weekly data collection plans

Individual time in collections with faculty

Informal small group gatherings for discussion on various topics, organized by faculty or by students