2015 SIMA Syllabus

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

Week 1 ORIENTATION TO THE FIELD SITE

ORIENTATION

Lesson #1, NMNH Orientation and Walkabout (Greene and Reuss)

Lesson #2, Program Overview (Greene)

*2014 SIMA NSF Proposal Narrative
   [Rationale for material culture and museum based research within cultural Anthropology; types of research questions; 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’]

Sturtevant, William
   [Focus on issues of documentation, which remain the same in spite of being computerized]

* 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.

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


Lesson #3b Intro (Bell)

Bell, Joshua A.

Bell, J.A. and H. Gesimar

Lesson #4, Object Database Orientation (Greene)

No readings

Lesson #5, Collections Resources: Artifacts (Greene and staff)

* 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]

*Review of Anthropology Collections home page, available at http://anthropology.si.edu/cm [Critical before any museum visit!]

Jones, Reba
Flynn and Hull-Walski

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Department of Anthropology Object Handling Procedures

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Department of Anthropology Statement on Potential Hazards (Inherent and Acquired) Associated with Collection Objects

Lesson #6, Collections Resources: Archives (Greene and staff)


* Review of public version of online database, available at http://siris-archives.si.edu

*NAA documents:
  Visitor form
  Digital camera use
  Photocopy order form

* Lindsay, John A., Gina Rappaport, and Betty A. Lindsay.
  [Considerations of photos as historical primary sources]

Parezo, Nancy J.
  [Provides understanding of the materials in anthropological archival collections]

* Redman, Samuel J.
  [Read chapters 2-3 for an introduction to archival research]

Lesson #7, Learning from Photographs (Bell)

Bell, J.A.

Edwards, Elizabeth

Pinney, Christopher

Lesson #8, Collection Notes and Work Plans (Greene and Munson)

Sanjek, Roger

Lesson #9, What’s Your Data? (Munson)

*Banning, E. B.

Week 2 VISUAL COMPETENCY: LEARNING TO LOOK

Lesson #10 Close Looking: (Greene and Jackson)

Part 1: In the Classroom

*Banks, Marcus

Caple, Chris

*Background for those interested in how collections are formed and data have been used*

*Read pp.7-8 only; think about your collection and consider what you want to measure and why*

*Think how to apply his analysis of a postcard to museum objects*

*Consider what technical analyses can reveal*
*Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan  
1890 The Science of Deduction. In Sign of Four.  
[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**  
[small groups learning to look]

**Lesson #11, Models and Assumptions (Munson)**  
*Munson, Marit K.  
2011 The Archaeology of Art in the American Southwest. Chap.1 and 2, pp. 1-42. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press.  
[How considering something “art” versus “artifact” raises different questions]

*Wisker, Gina.  
[Especially section on operationalizing a concept]

**Lesson #12, Research Funding: Deborah Winslow, NSF; Jeffrey Mantz, NSF. Guest Speakers**

* Dissertation Improvement Abstracts on NSF Site

Michael Jordan, NSF Proposal  
Catherine Nichols, Wenner Gren Proposal  
[Samples of successful proposals for you to keep on file]

**Lesson #13, Collectors and Collecting (Jackson)**

Sturtevant, William C.  
[Skim]

Additional readings to be assigned

**Lesson #14, Photographing Objects (Van Allen)**

**Lesson #15, Chaîne opératoire (Bell)**
Martinón-Torres
2002 “‘Chaîne opératoire.’ The concept and its applications within the study of technology.” *Gallaecia* 21: 29-43.

Coupaye, Ludovic

Munn, N. D.

Week 3
HOW COLLECTIONS ARE SHAPED: DATA CRITIQUE

**Lesson #16** Material Culture in/as Cultural Performance  (Jackson)

* Babcock, Barbara
[A folklore-studies friendly, communications-centered introduction to material culture.]

* Bauman, Richard
[A folklore-studies friendly, communications-centered introduction to the concept of performance.]

*Stoeltje, Beverly J.
[A folklore-studies friendly, communications-centered introduction to festival, a key performance "genre."]

**Lesson 17**, Looking at Accessions and Collections (Bell)

O'Hanlon, M.
Lesson #19, Why Objects Matter to Source Communities (Krmpotich)

Askren, Mique’l Icesis

Ettawageshick, Frank

Glass, Aaron

Yellowman, Connie Hart

Lesson #20, Museum Documentation as a Site for Research (Krmpotich)

*Christen, Kim

*Geismar, Haidy and William Mohns
2011 ‘Social relationships and digital relationships: rethinking the database at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre.’ In Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (N.S.), S133-S155.
Week 4    NEXT STEPS: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Lesson #21, Hosting Community Research Visits (Krmpotich)

*Farrell-Racette, Sherry

*Fienup-Riordan, Ann

*Krmpotich, Cara and Laura Peers
2013      This Is Our Life: Haida material heritage and changing museum practice. Vancouver: UBC Press. Ch. 2 “Preparation for the Visit.”

*Onicul, Briony

Lesson #22, Ethics (Greene)

No readings

Lesson #23, Final Symposium with Student Presentations Discussants

Lesson #24, SIMA Course Evaluation
RUNNING THROUGHOUT PROGRAM

Individual data collection, based on weekly plans
    Research visits to other area collections by appointment

Individual advising on research project

Individual time in collections with faculty

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