Core program faculty:
Dr. Candace Greene, SIMA Director, Smithsonian Institution
Dr. Nancy Parezo, University of Arizona
Dr. Robert Welsch, Franklin Pierce University

Week 1 - Sessions provide students with an orientation to the museum as a research site and prepare students to begin their research projects.

Weeks 2 and 3 - Sessions focus on visual literacy, critical analysis, and integrating museum objects with other types of data. Approximately half of each day will be used for formal sessions and half will be open for individual work assembling data.

Week 4 - Sessions look toward future implementation of the research project: locating additional collections, funding the research, presenting results, and ethical issues. Time is available for final data collection. Participants present their projects in a one-day symposium at the end of the week.

*General readings for each week are listed after the final session for that week.
**Week 1**
Sessions provide students with an orientation to the museum as a research site and prepare students to begin their research projects.

**Session Title:** Program Overview- Prospectus  
**Instructor:** Greene  
**Location:** Rose Seminar Room  
**Description:** This session provides students with an outline of the program calendar and more detailed information about the research prospectuses that they will refine over the course of the institute.

**Session Title:** Kuspak Exercise  
**Instructor:** Greene  
**Location:** Rose Seminar Room  
**Description:** Students begin learning how to think critically about things by examining an object about which there is limited information.

**Session Title:** Collection Resources - Artifacts  
**Instructor:** Hull-Walski  
**Location:** Museum Support Center  
**Description:** Students tour and gain familiarity with the artifact collections and associated records at the Museum Support Center, the National Museum of Natural History’s off-site collections facility.  
**Student Preparation:** Explore the Collections webpage, especially Research the Collections.  
**Readings:**  
- MSC orientation materials  
- Guide to Collections Records, Ethnology and Archaeology Collections. Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology.  
- Burcaw, G. Ellis  

**Session Title:** Recording Data - Artifacts  
**Instructor:** Greene  
**Location:** Museum Support Center Conference Room  
**Description:** Discussion of various methods to record data, key pieces of information.

**Session Title:** Initial Contact - Objects and Records  
**Instructor:** Staff  
**Location:** Museum Support Center Pods and Records Room  
**Description:** Accessing original object collections in a museum is a new opportunity for most students. This lesson exposes students to the available resources and stimulates thinking about research potential. In this lesson and in a later session, “Initial Contact: Archives,” students begin examining materials relating to their individual research projects. In the first part of the session, students examine materials in collections storage and receive training in object handling. In the second part, students work in various repositories to examine materials, consulting with appropriate staff at each repository regarding handling practices and conventions for citation.  
**Student Preparation:** Using publicly available online resources, students prepare a list of materials they wish to see, and define parameters for a staff search a using non-public database.
Session Title: Understanding Records: Says Who?
Instructor: Greene
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: Discussion of key issues in reading museum records, distinguishing provenance and provenience, documentation and attribution.
Readings:

Session Title: Recording Data-Archives
Instructor: Parezo
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: Discussion of various methods to record data, key pieces of information.
Student Preparation: Review archives worksheet. Review the website for the National Anthropological Archives and Human Studies Film Archives; Review COPAR bulletins on the NAA website. Review one of the following online tutorials:
A) Yale University Tutorial
http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/tutorial/introduction.htm
B) Libraries and Archives of Canada
“Using Archives: A Practical Guide for Researchers”
http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/04/0416_e.html
C) University of North Carolina Manuscript Research Tutorial
http://www.lib.unc/instruct/manuscripts/index.html
D) University of Texas, San Antonio
http://lib.utsa.edu/Archives/usingarchives.html
E) University of Nottingham
http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/learning/skills/archives/
Readings:

Session Title: Collection Resources-Archives
Instructor: Leopold/Wintle
Location: National Anthropological Archives/Human Studies Film Archives
Description: Students tour and gain familiarity with the archival materials associated with artifact collections and how records supplement or supplant objects.
Student Preparation: Students should familiarize themselves with the Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS) at www.siris.si.edu. Use SIRIS to browse the Human Studies Film Archives (HSFA) collection highlights. Explore HSFA film clips: Students may also use SIRIS to explore what archival collections are held (and cataloged) in the Smithsonian, particularly the HSFA and NAA.
Session Title: Initial Contact-Archives  
Instructor: Staff  
Location: National Anthropological Archives  
Description: This lesson exposes students to the available archival resources and further stimulates thinking about research potential. In this lesson and in the earlier session, “Initial Contact: Objects and Records,” students begin examining materials relating to their individual research projects. Students use online and other resources to identify material of interest and, working in various repositories to examine materials, learn about citation conventions and handling practices for archival materials.  
Student Preparation: Using publicly available online resources, students prepare a list of materials they wish to see relating to their research topic.

Session Title: Distinguished Lecture: Pacific Encounters: Exhibiting Ancient Polynesian Art in the 21st Century  
Instructor: Dr. Steven Hooper, Director, Sainsbury Research Unit for the Arts of Africa, Oceania & the Americas, University of East Anglia  
Location: Rose Seminar Room

Session Title: Seminar with Steven Hooper  
Instructor: Hooper  
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room  
Description: Students discuss topics explored in daily lectures and discussions with Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Steven Hooper.  
Student Preparation/Readings:  
1. Newell, Jenny  
2. Kaeppler, Adrienne  
3. Hooper, Steven  
4. Hooper, Steven  

Session Title: History of Smithsonian Anthropology  
Instructor: Henson  
Location: Smithsonian Institution Archives  
Description: Lecture on the development of anthropology at the Smithsonian and elements that influenced it and shaped collections; orientation to central SI archival holdings.  
Student Preparation: Review Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) website.

Session Title: Engaging Artisans and Cultural presenters: National Folklife Festival  
Instructor: Staff  
Location: National Mall  
Description: Students are paired with craftspeople in the Wales section of the festival and engage in participant observation throughout the day while serving as festival volunteers.  
Student Preparation: Review Folklife Festival website, review and select interviewee(s) from the Welsch Program participant list, review Wales Program Narrative Stage Schedule and festival schedule and maps  
Readings:  
1. Kurin, Richard


3. Morris, Jan

**General Readings for Week 1**

1. Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara

2. Parezo, Nancy
Week 2
Sessions in weeks 2 and 3 focus on visual literacy, critical analysis, and integrating museum objects with other types of data. Approximately half of each day will be used for formal sessions and half will be open for individual work assembling data.

Session Title: Folklife Festival follow-up
Instructor: Parezo/Greene
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description: Discussion of the complex social web in which objects are suspended, as revealed by work with craftspeople. Discussion of if/how that context can be recognized in objects in a museum collection.

Session Title: Objects and People
Instructor: Bell
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description: Seminar on methods to reconnect objects and source communities.
Readings:

Session Title: Close Looking/Visual Literacy (2 parts)
Instructor: Welsch
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: Researchers using ethnographic objects in museum collections need to understand how much they can learn directly from looking closely at an object. This lesson is aimed at learning to see objects, using what we can see to interpret as much as we can about the object’s social life as a thing. This session will be a hands-on opportunity for students to interact with and learn how to see objects.

Session Title: Conservator’s Eye
Instructor: Anthropology Conservation Lab Staff
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: Using objects being prepared for a large loan to the Anchorage Museum, conservation staff will present the many forms of “looking” that inform treatment protocols, including physical examination, technical materials identification, correlating condition with collection and subsequent museum history, Native consultation.
Student Preparation: Review the following conservation sites:
http://palimpsest.stanford.edu
http://www.bcin.ca
http://conservation-us.org
http://aic.stanford.edu/jaic
http://cameo.mfa.org/
http://aata.getty.edu/NPS/

Session Title: Distinguished Lecture: Emplacement and Displacement: the Landscape in Aboriginal Australian Acrylic Painting
Instructor: Dr. Fred Myers, Silver Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, New York University
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description:

Session Title: Seminar with Fred Myers
Instructor: Myers
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description: Students discuss topics explored in daily lectures and discussions with Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Fred Myers.
Readings:
1. Myers, Fred
   NUMBERING NEEDS FORMATING


Session Title: National Science Foundation Perspective
Instructor: Deborah Winslow, Cultural Anthropology Program Officer, NSF
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description: Presentation on how NSF supports cultural anthropology and discussion of how to prepare a compelling proposal for dissertation enhancement.

Session Title: African Basket Seminar
Instructor: Arnoldi
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: Examination of a systematic of 20th century baskets, with discussion of the personal, cultural, and economic factors that have influenced their development.
Readings:
1. Arth, Kim

Session Title: Provenance/Provenience
Instructor: Welsch
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: Critical examination of museum records, with discussion of methods to untangle provenance and provenience. We explore some of the ways we can try to sort through these ambiguities by considering the ethnographic community and its style, the goals and personalities of the collector, and the social life of objects after they are collected.
General Reading for Week 2


Recommended


Week 3
Sessions in weeks 2 and 3 focus on visual literacy, critical analysis, and integrating museum objects with other types of data. Approximately half of each day will be used for formal sessions and half will be open for individual work assembling data.

Session Title: Photographs and Film
Instructor: Joshua Bell
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: This session explores photographs and film as objects, considering the factors that shape their production and subsequent history, and how they are and are not like other types of object collections.
Readings:
1. Welsch, Robert L.
2. Bell, J.A.
3. Edwards, E. and J. Hart
4. Morphy, H. & M. Banks
5. Pinney, C.

Session Title: What’s Your Data?
Instructor: Parezo
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: This session guides students through various methods to approach the type of data that they have been collecting.
Readings:
1. Harper, Douglas
2. Atkinson, Paul and Sara Delamont

Session Title: Understanding Bias
Instructor: Parezo
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: Museum collections represent an assemblage of materials shaped by many different people over time. Current researchers must identify various types of bias in the material in order to use it effectively and reliably. This lesson discusses bias in the original process of collection and bias generated by museum practices of selection and recording.
**Student Preparation:** Students prepare in advance by examining database reports of accessions and of groups of cultural material, considering what types of bias they reveal.

**Session Title:** Repatriation Lunch Discussion  
**Instructor:** Billeck  
**Location:** MSC Picnic Area  
**Description:** This lunch session offers and informal opportunity to meet Bill Billeck, Program Manager, Office of Repatriation, National Museum of Natural History, and learn more about the actual process of repatriation work and the collection research that it involves.

**Session Title:** Technical Analytical Possibilities  
**Instructor:** Harriet Beaubien, Objects Conservator and Robert Speakman, Head of Technical Studies, Museum Conservation Institute  
**Location:** Museum Support Center Collections  
**Description:** Many sophisticated analytical techniques are available to yield information about the age, origin, or composition of the materials from which objects are made. Knowledge of such physical properties can contribute distinct insights to many research questions. The Smithsonian’s Museum Conservation Institute provides a range of analytical services in support of object research. Students are introduced to the purpose and capabilities of the Museum Conservation Institute.

**Session Title:** Art Museum Approaches to Cultural Materials  
**Instructor:** Dr. Louise Cort  
**Location:** Freer & Sackler Gallery  
**Description:** Students will tour galleries of ceramics arranged on different premises and learn about the premises that guide their presentation. A tour of storage and records systems will illustrate the systems of organization used by many art museums.

**Student Preparation:**  
Exhibition “Taking Shape” on the museums’ web site  
[www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/current/takingshape.htm](http://www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/current/takingshape.htm)  
Sections on Materials, Place, and Time can be found at [http://seasianceramics.asia.si.edu/](http://seasianceramics.asia.si.edu/)  
Essays posted in the Library can be found at [http://seasianceramics.asia.si.edu/resources/essays.asp](http://seasianceramics.asia.si.edu/resources/essays.asp)

**Session Title:** Distinguished Lecture: Museum Studies of Material Culture: Some Problems and Perspectives  
**Instructor:** Dr. Christian Feest, Director, Museum für Völkerkunde, Vienna  
**Location:** Rose Seminar Room  
**Description:**

**Objectives:**

**Session Title:** Seminar with Christian Feest  
**Instructor:** Feest  
**Location:** Museum Support Center Conference Room  
**Description:** Students discuss topics explored in daily lectures and discussions with Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Christian Feest.

**Session Title:** Southwest Ceramics Seminar  
**Instructor:** Bruce Bernstein, Director, Southwest Association for Indian Arts  
**Location:** Museum Support Center  
**Description:** Classroom and in-storage examination of ceramics from the American Southwest, with discussion of how to look at a group of objects, learning to recognize biases in assemblages; consideration of how these reflect actions of producers, sellers, and collectors.

**Readings:**
1. Lucic, Karen and Bruce Bernstein  
2. Bernstein, Bruce  

General readings for the week

Recommended:
1. Edwards, E.  
3. Askew, K. M., and R. R. Wilk  
4. Edwards, E.  
5. Ellis, J. C., and B. A. McLane  
7. Griffiths, A.  
8. Jeffrey, I.  
9. Sekula, A.  
Week 4
Sessions in the final week look toward future implementation of the research project: locating additional collections, funding the research, presenting results, and ethical issues. Time is available for final data collection. Participants present their projects in a one-day symposium at the end of the week.

Session Title: Social Life of Documentation
Instructor: Welsch
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description: This session traces the recording of museum collections and how different methods have shaped our understanding of these objects.

Session Title: Finding More Data
Instructor: Greene
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description: No research project can rely on data in a single repository. In this session, students are given tools and tips for locating comparative material in other museum collections, with insights into how to interpret the curious language of online catalogs.
Student Preparation: Examination of a series of assigned (and discovered) online catalogs of anthropological material.

Session Title: Ethics
Instructor: Parezo
Location: Museum Support Center Conference Room
Description: This lecture explores ethical issues relating to museum-based research, with emphasis on responsibilities to source communities.

Session Title: Funding
Instructor: Parezo/Welsch
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description: This is a practical session providing information on different funding agencies, how to assess fit between your project and their priorities, and how to clearly present your project in a proposal.

Session Title: Publishing/Presenting Project
Instructor: Parezo/Welsch
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description: A practical session discussing the objectives and benefits of presentation in various venues, how to select a publication venue, and what to expect along the way.

Session Title: Final Student Symposium
Instructor: NA
Location: Rose Seminar Room
Description: Students present the research they have conducted during the institute to an audience of fellow program participants, faculty, lecturers, and other anthropologists.

Session Title: Program Evaluation
Instructor: NA
Location: Museum Support
Description: In addition to filling out program evaluation forms after the program, students have the opportunity to share initial thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of the program with faculty members.