

Museum Archives and Exhibits

Anthropology/Art 320 - SUNY Potsdam
Spring 2012 – T/Th 11-12:15
Morgan Perkins – MacVicar 130A
Office Hours – T/Th 1-2

The goal of this course is to provide practical experience in the design, conception and installation of a museum exhibition. The primary focus is to prepare the Spring 2012 exhibition for the Weaver Museum. **You are the curators.** You will be expected to draw upon independent research to design the exhibition. I will provide advice and suggestions but you will ultimately determine the results through research, discussion and practice. In addition to selecting and arranging objects for display we will plan and implement the use of additional information and media as part of the exhibition. For example, we may want to include photographs, recordings, films and other materials that help place information in different contexts. There are many advisors and resources available here on campus.

Weaver Museum Exhibition 2012:

The goal of this exhibition is to explore representations of China through visual and material culture. We will draw upon a range of objects, images and other materials from the Weaver collection and from other sources. The specific themes of the exhibition will be developed through discussion and collaboration that will allow each of you to develop personal designs of your own that will fit within the framework of the exhibition as a whole.

Texts:

The focus of this class is practical experience in both research and design. Most of your reading will be based upon the research you conduct. I will provide you with articles of general relevance to the research and exhibition process as well as material relating directly to the subject matter of your personal research.

David Dean. 1996. *Museum Exhibition: Theory and Practice*. London: Routledge
Selected readings as handouts or on Blackboard – All students should be registered.

Assessment:

Class attendance and participation: 30%: Attendance is required and essential. Timely submission of the drafts of your display materials will be included in this assessment.

Independent assignments and exhibition research: 40%: There are a wide range of tasks that will be required of you both outside and during class. The nature of these will be determined in part by your own interests.

Exhibition Installation: 10%: The final goal of the class – be prepared to put in extra hours until the process is finished.

Final Essay: 20%: This will cover the analysis of your practical experience in relation to theoretical approaches to museums. I will discuss details for this in class. The paper should be approximately 3000 words (approx. 12 pages) and include appropriate footnotes, a bibliography and sources for any images that you use.