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ANTY 600.01: Issues in Cultural Heritage

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Anthropology 600:   Issues in Cultural Heritage

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Course description: The core course discusses concepts of cultural heritage from a theoretical and critical perspective, analyzing 'heritage' as a construct, and provides coverage of the practical aspects of cultural heritage. From the theoretical perspective, different notions of heritage are explored from a variety of perspectives, especially anthropological and non-western paradigms. Sessions cover topics such as memory, nostalgia, the invention of tradition, the heritage industry, and cultural tourism, the quest for the 'authentic' heritage, heritage landscapes, cultural property issues, the commoditization of the past, reconstructions and intellectual property rights. The course also includes sessions on the organization and funding of cultural heritage organizations, the management of cultural heritage sites, the conservation profession, legal and ethical issues relating to cultural heritage including the trade in art and antiquities, restitution and repatriation, international conventions and efforts to protect tangible and intangible aspects of culture.

Required readings: Read the assignments in the order that they are presented throughout the course. Think critically about the readings and be prepared to discuss all the readings in class. If you are not prepared you will do a disservice to yourself and the other seminar participants. If the discussion is not to a standard set by the instructor, each student will lead a discussion group on an assigned reading.

Barthel-Bouchier, D., Heritage and the Challenge of Sustainability. Left Coast Press.

Brown, M., Who Owns Native Culture? Harvard University Press.

Faircloth, G., R. Harrison, J. Schonfield, and J. Jameson, Editors, The Heritage Reader. Routledge Press.

Harrison, R., Heritage: Critical Approaches. Routledge Press.

King, T., Our Unprotected Heritage: Whitewashing the Destruction of our Cultural and Natural Environment. Left Coast Press.

Smith, L., Archaeological Theory and the Politics of Cultural Heritage. Routledge Press.

Whitt, L., Science, Colonialism, and Indigenous Peoples: The Cultural Politics of Law and Knowledge. Cambridge University Press.

Recommended Readings:

Jenks, T. <u>Contesting Human Remains in Museum Collections</u>. Routledge.

Labadi, S. <u>UNESCO, Cultural Heritage and Outstanding Universal Value</u>. AltaMira Press.

Course requirements:

       Your final grade will be based on two major criteria: **1.** <u>Active</u> class preparation and participation and; **2.** Research performance. Each student is required to attend class prepared to discuss critically <u>all the assigned readings</u>. Each student is required to read everything assigned for that particular discussion period. Your ability to articulate and critically analyze the reading materials and openly critique the ideas of your classmates in an in-depth fashion will determine a portion of your grade. The professor on the basis of debate and critical thinking will evaluate this. Your final grade will reflect your preparation and participation, regardless of research performance. **<u>Remember a C grade is considered failing in graduate school.</u>** No exams are required, but each student is to complete two written assignments and one oral assignment. The first written assignment is to compile a bibliography of <u>no less than 30 sources</u> of scholarly journal articles and/or books about an aspect of cultural heritage (**Topic will be selected by the student or assigned by the instructor**). The bibliography will be submitted electronically, in Word, on or before **October 22, 2013.**

       The second assignment is to choose a contemporary cultural heritage issue or controversy. Critically examine that topic with respect to the major issues, debates, and proposed solutions from an anthropological perspective. **<u>You will determine topic, but the instructor must approve your topic</u> (A working title and 100 word abstract is expected by October 15, 2013).** The paper is not a description, but a piece of analytical research that is theoretically and methodologically focused to sharpen your research skills. The final paper should of sufficient quality to present at a professional conference and be a potential publishable piece. Grading, in part will be based on these criteria. The project must be 20 to 25 typed pages, formatted in the <u>American Anthropologist,</u> <u>American Antiquity,</u> or <u>American Journal of Physical Anthropology</u> style. The paper will constitute 50 percent of the final grade.

At the end of the seminar, each student will be presented with a written evaluation in each of the above areas along with your final grade. **<u>There is no negotiation about your grade.</u>**

Extra Credit: For those of you who would like to insure yourself a superior grade, I recommend doing several extra credit projects. Select one or more of the recommended readings and write a critical review of each work, discussing the work's relevancy to cultural heritage and anthropology as a mode of inquiry. The assignment is due the last day of seminar. Each extra credit assignment will be worth one third of a grade. **No late material will be accepted after the due date!**