ARTH 501 Halpern-Rogath Curatorial Seminar
University Museum: Architecture and Institution
Schedule        Fall 2006

Professor Ann Blair Brownlee    (abrownle@sas)
Office hours: Tuesdays 3-5 PM in Museum 350  (Please email to reserve a time.)

Professor David B. Brownlee    (dbrownle@sas)
Office hours: Wednesdays, 3-5 PM in Jaffe 106  (Please sign up for a time in Jaffe.)

7 September  Introduction: A Walk through the Building
14 September The Museum: Architecture (DBB) and Institution (ABB)
21 September Introduction to Research Resources in the Museum Archives (with Kathryn O’Rourke) and oral presentation of first assignment (see assignment sheet)
28 September Architectural themes I (DBB)
5 October Architectural Themes II: Guest: Shawn Evans
12 October Oral and written presentation of research proposal (see assignment sheet)
19 October Architectural themes III (DBB)
26 October  6 PM   Cultural/museological themes I.  Guest: Steven Conn
2 November Cultural/museological themes II (ABB)
9 November Cultural/museological themes III (ABB)
16 November Oral and written presentation of proposed objects and exhibition themes, and discussion of museum installation and organization. (see assignment sheet)
23 November No class (Thanksgiving)
30 November Oral research reports (see assignment sheet)
7 December Oral research reports  (see assignment sheet)
20 December Written research reports and didactic materials due (see assignment sheet; no class meeting)
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Reading assignments

Introductory (7-21 September)

- Conn, Steven. Museums and American Intellectual Life, chapts 1-3. FAL
- Madeira, Percy C., Jr. Men in Search of Man, complete. UML desk
- Portfolio of early press coverage—to be distributed in class
- Winegrad, Dily. Through Time Across Continents, complete. UML desk

Architectural (5-19 October)

- Strong, Ann L. and George E. Thomas. The Book of the School, pp. 25-53 FAL

Cultural and Museological (26 October-9 November)

- Low, Theodore L. The Museum as a Social Instrument. UML
- Coleman, Laurence Vail. The Museum in America, selections UML
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Written and oral assignments

FIRST ASSIGNMENT: Introducing the many facets of the Museum
(5-minute oral report; on 9/21)
Making use of the secondary literature on the reading list, prepare a short introduction to one of the Museum’s departments or one of the building’s wings, as enumerated here: Departments: African, Asian, Central and South American, education, Egyptian, MASCA, Mediterranean, Near Eastern, North American, Oceania, Physical Anthropology, publications. Wings: 1899 building, Harrison, Coxe, Administration/Sharpe, Academic, Mainwaring

SECOND ASSIGNMENT: Research proposal
(10-minute oral report and 4-page written proposal; due 10/12)
Present your proposed area of research, making sure to explain its importance and relevance to an exhibition. We expect that most people will choose to work on a department or a wing of the building, but other topics are possible. The written presentation should be accompanied by a bibliography and a list of the most important archival resources.

THIRD ASSIGNMENT: Proposals for exhibition objects, themes and organization
(5-minute oral presentation and discussion; due 11/16)
Present the objects that you believe should be included in the exhibition to represent your area of research. Present what you believe to be the most important unifying themes that run through the entire exhibition. Presentations will be followed by discussion of the themes and organization of the exhibition.

FOURTH ASSIGNMENT: Oral research report
(20-minute oral presentation (on 11/30 or 12/7; your date will be chosen by lot)
Present the major findings of your research in a way that highlights the material that you propose for the exhibition.

FIFTH ASSIGNMENT: Written research report and didactic materials.
(10-20 page research paper, plus didactic materials for exhibition; due 12/20)
The research paper must be properly documented, with footnotes and bibliography. In addition to the paper, submit ca. 1000 words of text for the didactic panels in your part of the exhibition and label copy for the objects that you propose for the display.