

New Fall 2020 Course

# ANT 300 Special Topics: Museum Anthropology and Cultural Representation

TuTh 9:40 to 11:10, Swart 14.

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie May de Montigny

How do museums represent people, culture, and heritage? This course takes a perspective from Cultural Anthropology to explore recent developments, practices, issues, and ethics of museum representation, and the history of museum collection and practice. The course addresses these issues in general and has a special focus on museum practice relevant to the various branches of Anthropology including Cultural Anthropology, Archeology, and Biological Anthropology. Students will develop critical thinking skills by investigating how museum practices reproduce or challenge power and social hierarchy through portrayals of people, culture, and identity. The course will delve into innovative methods employed to decolonize representation, increase accountability to the peoples whom museums represent, equalize power relationships between them, and cultivate more collaborative and inclusive practices. The course will touch on issues of cultural representation that pertain more broadly to tourism, folklife festivals, public history projects, county, state, and national parks, powwows, and many other venues where people, culture, and heritage are depicted.

