

2023 SIMA Syllabus

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WEEK 1 ORIENTATION TO THE FIELD SITE

Lesson #1 Welcome, Program Overview (Bell)

Borges, Jorge

1969 "The ethnographer." Translated by Andrew Hurley <https://wtf.tw/ref/borges.html>

Haraway, Donna

1988 'Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspectives.' *Feminist Studies* 14(3): 575-599.

[Canonical piece about our positionalities as researchers]

Gosden, Chris and Frances Larson

2007 What is a Museum? *In* Knowing Things: Exploring the Collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum 1884-1945. Pp. 3-13. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[Consider collections as the material residue of particular sets of social relationships]

Greene, Candace S.

1992 Documentation, Attribution and the Ideal Type. *In* Art and Artifacts: Essays in Material Culture and Museum Studies, In Honor of Jane Powell Dwyer, Harold David Juli, ed. Research Papers in Anthropology Number 5. Pp. 9-18. Providence: Brown University.

[focus on assumptions about culture that inform ideas of 'documentation' or 'attribution']

Sholts, SB, Bell, JA. Rick, T.

2016. "Ecce Homo: science and society need anthropological collections." *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*. 31(8):580-83.

[Discussion of the multiple dimensions of collections, and why museums matter]

Bonilla, Y. and Thomas, D.

2020 "An Interview with the Editor of *American Anthropologist* about the March 2020 Cover Controversy." *American Anthropologist* Jun 29.

<http://www.americananthropologist.org/2020/06/29/an-interview-with-the-editor-of-american-anthropologist-about-the-march-2020-cover-controversy/>

[Discussion about legacies of anthropology and how one should deal with them]

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Bunch III, Lonnie G.

- 2022 “Why the Smithsonian Adopted a New Policy on Ethical Collecting.” *Smithsonian Magazine*. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/smithsonian-adopted-new-policy-ethical-collecting-180980047/>
[Outlines the efforts of the Smithsonian to address problematic histories in the SI collections through repatriation and returns. There is a link to the statement on ethical returns which is helpful to see: <https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/releases/smithsonian-adopts-policy-ethical-returns>]

Lesson #2 Methods from My Research (Bell)

Bell, J.A. and H. Geismar

- 2009 Materialising Oceania: New ethnographies of things in Melanesia and Polynesia. *The Australian Journal of Anthropology* 20 (1): 3-27.
[Theoretical positioning of objects through a discussion of theory in the Pacific]

Bell, Joshua A.

- 2020 ‘The Beginnings and Ends of Basketry in the Purari Delta.’ In T.A. Heslop, and H. Anderson and (ed). *Basketry and Beyond: Constructing Cultures*. Pp. 132-140. Norwich: Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia.
[Asking where objects begin and end, this is an examination of sago palm leaf baskets in the Purari Delta]
2021. “Go throw it in the river”: Shifting Values and the Productive Confusions of Collaboration with Museum Collections.” In *Museums, Societies and the Creation of Value*. Edited by Howard Morphy and Robyn McKenzie. Pp. 169-189. London: Routledge Press.
[Discussion about the failure of collaborations]

Lesson #2 Methods from My Research (Greene)

Greene, Candace S.

- 1996 Structure and Meaning in Cheyenne Ledger Art. *In Plains Indian Drawings 1865-1935: Pages from a Visual History*. Janet Berlo, ed. Pp. 26-33. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., in Association with The American Federation of Arts and the Drawing Center.
[Think about methodology in a quantitative study]
- 2009 One Hundred Summers: A Kiowa Calendar Record. University of Nebraska Press.
(selections)
[Think about methodology in a qualitative study combining work with community members and work in museum and archival sources]

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2015 The Use of Plant Fibers in Plains Indian Embroidery, *American Indian Art Magazine* vol. 40 (2): 58-71.

[Preliminary study – for discussion about methods to move research forward]

Lesson #3 Collections Resources: Artifacts (Greene)

Anthropology Department Guide to Collections Records, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History.

[Read this one carefully; keep it for continual reference]

Review of Anthropology Collections home page at:

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/anthropology/collections-and-archives-access>

[Critical before any museum visit!]

Jones, Reba

1998 Handling. *In* The New Museum Registration Methods. 4th edition. Rebecca A. Buck and Jean Allman Gilmore, eds. Pp. 45-48. Washington, DC: American Association of Museums.

Flynn and Hull-Walski

2001 Merging Traditional Indigenous Curation Methods with Modern Museum Standards of Care. *Museum Anthropology* 25(1):31-40.

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Department of Anthropology Object Handling Procedures

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Department of Anthropology Statement on Potential Hazards (Inherent and Acquired) Associated with Collection Objects

Lesson #4: Indigenous Science in the Past, Present and Future (Lippert)

Readings TBA

Lesson #5: MSC Pod Tour

No readings

Lesson #6a: Object Database Orientation (Beauchamp/Reuss/Pickering/Krakker)

No readings

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Lesson #6b: Object/Database Orientation - Speed Dating (Beauchamp/Reuss/Pickering/Kraker)

No readings

Lesson #7 Collection Notes and Work Plans (Greene)

Sanjek, Roger

1990 A Vocabulary for Fieldnotes. *In* Fieldnotes: The Makings of Anthropology. Roger Sanjek, ed. Pp.92-121. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Hedlund, Ann

2015 Beyond Beauty: Exploring the Ethnoaesthetics of Navajo Weaving, American Indian Art Magazine, vol. 40, No. 3, Summer 2015, Pp 44-59
[A wonderful enumeration of the many methods that have been used to study Navajo textiles. Make a list of all the methods mentioned in this overview article.]

Lesson #8 Collections Resources: Archives (NAA staff)

Review of NAA public online database, available at:

- <https://sova.si.edu/>
- <http://collections.si.edu/search/index.htm> (this is the general search page)
- http://collections.si.edu/search/results.htm?q=&gfg=CSILP_2&fq=data_source:%22National+Anthropological+Archives%22 (this selects for NAA collections only – under “catalog record source”)

NAA visitor information:

- <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/anthropology/collections-and-archives-access>

Lindsay, John A., Gina Rappaport, and Betty A. Lindsay.

2009 Pribilof Islands, Alaska, Guide to Photographs and Illustrations. NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS ORR 20, August 2009. Seattle, WA: NOAA Oceans and Coast Office of Response and Restoration.
[Considerations of photos as historical primary sources]

Parezo, Nancy J.

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- 1996 The Formation of Anthropological Archival Records. In *Learning from Things. Method and Theory of Material Culture Studies*, edited by W. David Kingery, pp.145-172. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.
[Provides understanding of the materials in anthropological archival collections]

Marsh, Diana E., Leopold, Rob, Crowe, Katherine and Kate Madison

2020. "Access Policies for Native American Archival Materials in the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution," for *Case Studies on Access Policies for Native American Archival Materials, Society of American Archivists* (4).
https://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/Case_3_Access_Policies_for_Native_American_Archival_Materials.pdf
[charts out access policies for the NAA's Native American materials]

Moore, Chris and Dezas, Tomás

- 2015 *Human Studies Film Archives: A Celebration of Its 40th Anniversary*. (2015; Dir. Moore and Dezas, 12 min) https://www.si.edu/object/yt_4NFdGAMoPJs
[Short film which examines the history of the HSFA]

Lesson #9 Tour of NMAI CRC

No Readings

Lesson #10 Data Collection (Archives)

No Readings

Lesson #11 Environmental Archaeology and Community Collaboration (Rick)

Colwell, Chip

- 2019 "Can Repatriation Heal the Wounds of History?." *The Public Historian* 4(1): 90-110

St. Amand et. Al.

- 2020 Leveraging legacy archaeological collections as proxies for climate and environmental research. *PNAS* (117) 15; 8287–8294

Reeder-Myers et. al.

- 2022 Indigenous oyster fisheries persisted for millennia and should inform future management. *Nature Communications* (13)2383: 1-13

Wellman, H.P et. al.

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- 2020 Archaeological mitogenomes illuminate the historical ecology of sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) and the viability of reintroduction. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 287: 20202343. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2020.2343>

Lesson #12 Close Looking (Greene)

Banks, Marcus

- 2001 Reading Pictures. *In Visual Methods in Social Research*. Pp. 1-12. Los Angeles and London: Sage Publications.
[Think how to apply his analysis of a postcard to museum objects]

Caple, Chris

- 2006 Investigating Objects: Theories and Approaches. *In Objects: Reluctant Witnesses to the Past*. Pp. 1-43. London and New York: Routledge.
[Consider what technical analyses can reveal]

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan

- 1890 The Science of Deduction. *In Sign of Four*.
[Not just for fun – we'll discuss this one]

Lesson #13 Close Engagement (Greene)

DeSilvey Caitlin

- 2006 "Observed decay: telling stories with mutable things." *Journal of Material Culture* 11(3): 318-338.
[A piece which examines objects as process]

Tsing, Anna L.

- 2019 "When the Things We Study Respond to Each Other: Tools for Unpacking "the Material" *In Anthropos and the Material* (eds) P. Harvey, C. Krohn-Hansen, and K. Nustad. Pp. 221-244. Durham: Duke University Press.
[This is a wide ranging piece that explores the implications of the use of assemblage as an analytic to think about humans and nonhumans.]

Mol, Annemarie

2021. "Knowing" and "Doing" in *Eating in Theory*. Pp. 50-101. Durham: Duke University Press.
[Well-written exploration of theory thinking with and around things and the body.]

Lesson #14 Tour of Cellphone: Unseen Connections Exhibit (Bell)

Bell, J.A., Kobak, B., Kuipers, J., and Kemble, A.,

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2018. "Unseen Connections: Introduction." In Unseen Connections: The Materiality of Cell phones Special Issue of Anthropological Quarterly 91(2): 465-484.
[Discusses some of the research and thinking that informed the exhibit]

[Tamisiea, Jack.](#)

2023. "[Endlessly Fascinating Devices”: Why the National Museum of Natural History is Exploring the Cultural Nature of Cellphones.” Smithsonian Magazine June 9.](#)
[Interview with Project Manager Christyna Solhan and Curator Joshua Bell]

WEEK 2 MULTI-MODAL COMPETENCIES: LEARNING TO ENGAGE

Lesson #15 Exploding Objects (Bell)

Martinón-Torres, Marcos

- 2002 “‘Chaîne opératoire.’ The concept and its applications within the study of technology,”
Gallaecia 21: 29-43.
[Good introduction to *chaîne opératoire*; use this as a way to think about the method of exploding objects and how it might be applied to your own objects of study]

Coupaye, Ludovic

- 2020 “Things ain’t the same anymore’ Towards an anthropology of technical objects (or ‘When Leroi-Gourhan and Simondon meet MCS’) In *Lineages and Advancements in Material Culture Studies Perspectives from UCL Anthropology*. (eds) T. Carroll, A. Walford, and S. Walton. Pp. 46-60. London: Bloomsbury.
[Broader discussion of how to understand objects through *chaîne opératoire*.]

Gan, Elaine

- 2021 “Diagrams: Making Multispecies Temporalities Visible.” In *Experimenting with Ethnography: A Companion to Analysis*. Ballesterro, A. and Ross, B. Winthereik, (eds). Pp. 106-120. Durham: Duke University Press.
[Provocation to think about how to use diagrams in one’s work]

Lesson #16 Native Lacrosse I – Learning to Play (Horse Capture)

Childs, J. Alan

- 2015 *Minnesota Lacrosse: A History*, 37-47.

Hale, Leya

2020. “Discover More About Minnesota’s First Team Sport.” December 1:
https://www.tptoriginals.org/discover-more-about-minnesotas-first-team-sport/?fbclid=IwAR3pDZXX4gIFdtnYCurWEm_JJEsug98Mb6rOWED3o_yUDJN4hgBHgXig

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IM

UPDATE: Native North America; Sports and the Native Spirit

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/update-native-north-america-sports-and-native-spirit>

Lesson #17 Native Lacrosse II – Cultural Contexts (Horse Capture)

Simpson, Moira

2009 “Museums and restorative justice: heritage, repatriation and cultural education.”

Museum 61(1-2) 121-129

https://www.brown.edu/Departments/Joukowsky_Institute/courses/worldofmuseums09/files/9704876.pdf

Lamar, Cynthia Chavez

2019 “A Pathway Home: Connecting Museum Collections with Native Communities.” *Arts* 8 (154): 1-10.

Zawadski, K.U.

2018 “Lines of Discovery on Inuit Needle Cases, Kakpiit, in Museum Collections.” *Museum Anthropology*, 41: 61-75.

Lesson #18 Native Skateboarding: Sports as a Cultural Revitalization Tool (Horse Capture)

Meet the Navajo Nation Skateboarder Going Viral on TikTok

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/navajo-nation-skateboarder-tiktok>

See How Skateboarding Is Changing Native American Youth Culture

<https://time.com/4163592/native-american-skateboarding-lakota/>

Stronghold Society http://strongholdsociety.org/?page_id=30

A Cree Skateboarding Legend Grapples with the Trauma of Canada’s Residential Schools

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-new-yorker-documentary/a-cree-skateboarding-legend-grapples-with-the-trauma-of-canadas-residential-schools>

A Rock Star’s Next Act: Making Montana a Skateboarding Oasis

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/09/30/sports/montana-skateboarding-jeff-ament.html>

Lesson #19 Learning from Things (Bell)

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Tsinhanahjinne, HJ.

2003. 'When Is a Photograph Worth a Thousand Words?' In *Photography's Other Histories* (eds) C. Pinney & N. Peterson, Pp. 40-52. Durham: Duke University Press.

Edwards, Elizabeth

2012 Objects of Affect: Photography Beyond the Image. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 41:221-234.

[Important theoretical piece that touches on many key aspects of working with images]

Campt, Tina

2017. "Listening to Images: An Exercise in Counterintuition." and "Haptic Temporalities: The Quiet Frequency of Touch." In *Listening to images*. Pp. 1-12, 69-100. Durham: Duke University Press.

[Important perspective on how to engage with images]

Lesson #20 Mutton and Coast Salish Woolly Dogs (Lin & Kistler)

Angela R. Perri, Tatiana R. Feuerborn, Laurent A. F. Frantz, Greger Larson, Ripan S. Malhi, David J. Meltzer, and Kelsey E. Witt

2020. Dog domestication and the dual dispersal of people and dogs into the Americas, *PNAS*, <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2010083118>

Solazzo, C., Heald, S., Ballard, M., Ashford, D., DePriest, P., Koestler, R., & Collins, M.

2011 Proteomics and Coast Salish blankets: A tale of shaggy dogs? *Antiquity*, 85(330), 1418-1432. doi:10.1017/S0003598X00062141

Lesson #21 Faculty Fellow Presentations (Falcone, Kreps)

No readings

WEEK 3 HOW COLLECTIONS ARE SHAPED: DATA CRITIQUE

Lesson #22 Project Check-In (Bell)

Borges, Jorge Luis

1946 "On Exactitude in Science" In *Collected Fictions*, translated by Andrew Hurley. <https://kwarc.info/teaching/TDM/Borges.pdf>

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Lesson #23 Australia: 'Country' as a Critical Concept (Andrews)

Andrews, J.

2021. Traditional Ecological Knowledges in Textile Designs of Northern Australia. In *Aboriginal Screen-Printed Textiles from Australia's Top End*. University of Washington Press.

Peterson, N., Allen, L. and Hamby, Louise.

2008 'Introduction' in *The Makers and Making of Indigenous Australian Museum Collections* [online]. Carlton, Vic.: Melbourne University Press.

Lesson #24 Engaging Accessions and Collections (Bell)

Bell, Joshua A.

2017 "A Bundle of Relations: Collections, Collecting and Communities." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 46(1): 1-24.
[overview of the literature on collecting and agency]

Bruchac, Marge M.

2014 "My sisters will not speak: Boas, Hunt, and the ethnographic silencing of First Nations women." *Curator: The Museum Journal* 57(2): 153-171.
[Useful case study to think about silences in collections and the various actors involved in collecting.]

Van Allen, Adrian.

2019 Folding Time: Practices of Preservation, Temporality and Care in Making Bird Specimens. *Deterritorializing the Future*, 120.
<https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/41204/?sequence=1#page=122>
[Examines the collecting and preparation of bird specimens]

Lesson #25 Meeting SIMA Alum & NMAI Curator Halena Kapuni-Reynolds

Kapuni-Reynolds, Halena.

2017 Mo'okū'auhau (genealogies) of care: curating Ali'i collections at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. *Studies in Arts and Humanities*, 3 (2): 84-108
https://esource.dbs.ie/bitstream/handle/10788/3367/article_kapuni-reynolds_2017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Kapuni-Reynolds, Halena

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- 2018 "Voyaging through the Oceanic Collection at the Denever Museum of Nature & Science." *Denver Museum of Nature & Science Annals* 7(1): 1-141.
<https://publications.dmns.org/dmns-annals/annals-7/>

Lesson #26 Objects as Ambassadors – Entering the Dialogue (Andrews)

Oscar, J.

2016. New Encounters June Oscar keynote presentation (audio and transcript below)
<https://www.nma.gov.au/audio/new-encounters-communities-collections-and-museums-conference/new-encounters-june-oscar-keynote-presentation>

Lesson #27 Engagement with Communities – Contemporary Considerations, Including Protocols (Andrews)

Coates, I.

- 2016 Introduction. *Encounters: Revealing Stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Objects from the British Museum*. Canberra. National Museum of Australia Press. Pp. 16-21.

Janke, T.

- 2018 First Peoples: A Roadmap for Enhancing Indigenous Engagement in Museums and Galleries, Australian Museums and Galleries Association <https://www.amaga-indigenous.org.au/>

Morphy, H.

- 2020 'Open access versus the culture of protocols' in *Museums, Infinity and the Culture of Protocols*. London: Routledge, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203705186>

WEEK 4 NEXT STEPS: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Lesson #28 Ethics (Bell & Guests)

Be familiar with:

American Anthropology Association Code of Ethics

<https://www.americananthro.org/LearnAndTeach/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=22869&navItemNumber=652>

American Alliance of Museums

<https://www.aam-us.org/programs/ethics-standards-and-professional-practices/code-of-ethics-for-museums/>

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School for Advanced Research

2023 *Standards for Museums with Native American Collections: A guide to all aspects of work within museums holding Native collections.* <https://sarweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SMNAC-Final-Document.-May-2023.pdf>

Society of American Archivists

<https://www2.archivists.org/statements/saa-core-values-statement-and-code-of-ethics>

Lesson #29 Why Objects Matter to Source Communities (Bell & Guests)

Bell, Joshua A., Kim Christen, and Mark Turin

2013 "Introduction: After the Return." *Museum Anthropology Review* 7 (1-2):1-21. <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/mar/article/view/3184/4571>
[Discussion of the issues involved in digital collaboration with communities and museums]

Silverman, Raymond

2015 Introduction: Museum as Process. In: *Museum as Process: Translating Local and Global Knowledges*. Raymond Silverman (ed), pp. 1-18. London: Routledge.
[read for Silverman's discussion of collaboration, translation and what he terms 'slow museology']

Brown, Alison K.

2016 "Co-authoring relationships: Blackfoot collections, UK museums, and collaborative practice." *Collaborative Anthropologies*, 9(1), 117-148.
[Discussions about a long-term collaboration]

TallBear, Kim

2019 "Caretaking Relations, Not American Dreaming." *Kalfou: A Journal of Comparative and Relational Ethnic Studies* 6(1): 24-41.
[TallBear talks about relations and kin-making which has applicability to museum collections.]

Isaac, Gwyneira, Ingrid Ahlgren, Alan Ojiig Corbiere, and Judith Andrews.

2022 "Being present and bearing witness: talking about cultural revitalization programming in museums." *Museum Management and Curatorship* (2022): 1-25.
[Discussion of Recovering Voices community research program and its methods.]

Raman, Spoorthy

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- 2023 "What it means to practice values-based research." *Nature* June 7.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-01878-1>
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-01878-1>
[Interview with Max Librion – the director of CLEAR Lab]

Digital Sites

Almeroth-Williams, Tom

2021. Colonial encounters A new exhibition examines the pioneering ethnographic archive assembled by Britain's first colonial anthropologist, Cambridge alumnus Northcote Thomas. <https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/re-entanglements-exhibition-maa>
[Example of a project that re-engaged the colonial legacies of collections and the communities entangled with them; review of the [Re]Entanglements project <https://re-entanglements.net/>]

Plateau People's Web Portal - <https://plateauportal.libraries.wsu.edu/>

[Collaboratively curated and managed educational, interactive, online digital archive providing access to Plateau peoples' cultural materials at Washington State University through tribal curation, in collaboration with Native Programs, Washington State University.]

Lesson #30: Beyond Repatriation: 3D Digitization and Replication (Hollinger)

Sculpin Hat Collaboration

Hollinger, R. Eric., John, Jr., Edwell., Jacobs, Harold., Moran-Collins, Lora., Thome, Carolyn., Zastrow, Jonathan., Metallo, Adam., Waibel, Günter., and Vince Rossi.

- 2013 "Tlingit-Smithsonian Collaborations with 3D Digitization of Cultural Objects." *Museum Anthropology Review* (7)1-2: 201-253.
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/mar/article/view/2173>

Hollinger, Eric

- 2019 "Smithsonian Uses 3D Tech to Restore a Broken Sacred Object for Tlingit Indians."
<https://dpo.si.edu/blog/smithsonian-uses-3d-tech-restore-broken-sacred-object-tingit-indians>

Smithsonian's Digitization Program Office

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- 2021 "Smithsonian Uses 3D Tech to Restore a Broken Sacred Object for Tlingit Indians."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7YzLlbVSN4>
[This video is the most comprehensive discussion of the sculpin hat collaboration]

Hohenstatt, Ben

- 2019 "New technology brings old Tlingit hat back to Alaska." *Juneau Empire* September 26.
<https://www.juneauempire.com/news/new-technology-brings-old-tingit-hat-back-to-alaska/>

Shee aan Collaboration

Hollinger, Eric and Nick Patridge

- 2017 "3D Technology May Revive this Ancient Hunting Tool." *Smithsonian Magazine*
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-of-natural-history/2017/10/25/3d-technology-may-revive-ancient-hunting-tool/>

Lesson #31 Research Funding NSF (Mantz)

No readings

RUNNING THROUGHOUT PROGRAM

Individual data collection, based on weekly plans
Research visits to other area collections by appointment

Individual advising on research project

Individual time in collections with faculty

Informal small group gatherings for discussion on various topics, organized by faculty or by students