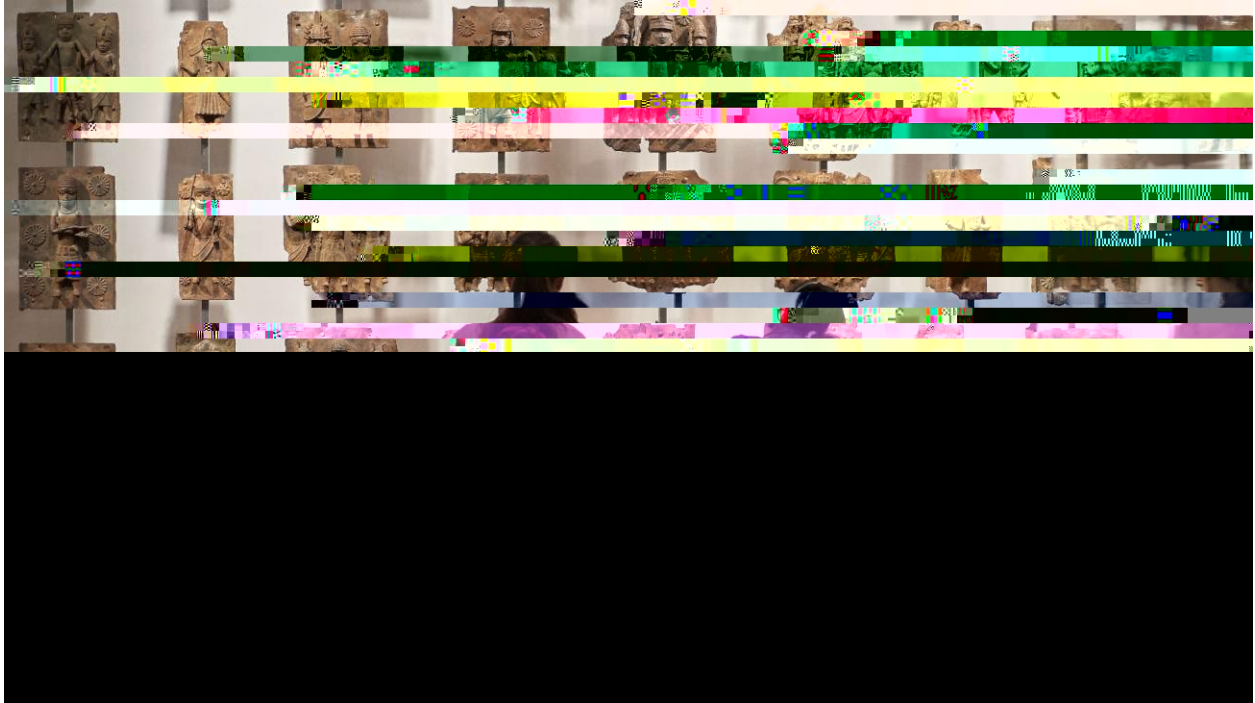


MCS 3610G – Winter 2023

Museum Controversies and Contestations

Thursdays 2:30 – 5:30

Room VAC-247



Benin Bronzes at the British Museum

Professor: Dr. Helen Gregory

Office: McIntosh Gallery, Room 5B (downstairs)

Office Hours: Thursday 12:45 – 1:45 pm, by appointment

Email: hgregory@uwo.ca

Course Description and Objectives:

Despite often being described as storehouses for dead objects akin to mausoleums, museums have more recently been the focus of numerous controversies and contestations. In light of current socio-cultural shifts and re-evaluations, this course will examine how museums are now both the site and subject of protest, activism, and social change. What challenges are faced by museums in researching and displaying “difficult” material such as artefacts related to histories of violence, social and economic disparity, colonization, or environmental degradation? Students in this course will learn how museums have both benefitted from and responded to historical and ongoing exploitation and inequality.

Required Texts:

All course readings, weblinks, podcasts etc. are available on OWL. It is the student's responsibility to let the professor know in advance if they have any trouble downloading the readings. Some news articles may be paywall protected, but I have pdfs of most of them just in case we need them. Additional material will be added as required, but in the event of any changes you will receive a notification.

Assignment Breakdown:

Participation: 15%

Reading responses (3), 15% (5% each)

Case Study: 70%

- Initial Expression of Interest: 5%
- Proposal and Annotated Bibliography: 15%
- Final Essay: 40%
- Pecha Kucha Presentation: 10%

Participation: 15%

10% of the participation will be determined by attendance, the extent and quality of engagement in class discussions, and the ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the readings. 5% of the participation (di)41 nderta -0.005(Br003h)(ai)4(mgoin(6(isd a)10T dPb(0)st (a3)0(a)

questioning, or praiseworthy but they must demonstrate a clear understanding of the authors' arguments. 500-750 words/response.

Case Study: 70%

Initial Expression of Interest: 5%, Due February 2nd

Students will submit an initial expression of interest of 250 words describing a proposed case study associated with one of the topics covered in class.

First Draft and Annotated Bibliography: 15%, Due February 16th

Students will submit a more substantially developed proposal for their essay, taking into consideration any feedback received from the professor. This should be approximately 1000 words in length and must also include an annotated bibliography of five research resources, at least three of which must be scholarly sources. The other two may be news articles, films, podcasts, or other media. Each source should be annotated with a one-paragraph description that summarizes how it will be useful to your proposed essay. Students will also have the opportunity to engage in a peer feedback session during class, to further expand and develop their ideas.

Final Essay: 40% Due on or before April 6th

Class Policies – A Brief Overview

Late Assignments: Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. I will deduct one mark per day of lateness. Extensions will be given *only*

can contact Western's Academic Support & Engagement department. <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

By installing your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you grant Western University an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free world-wide licence to photograph your artwork and use such photograph(s) for the promotion of your artwork and/or Western University, including,

60-69 (Competent, C) The writing demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding research, an insufficient number of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

50-59 (Marginal, D) The writing shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding research, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F) The writing demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding research, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.

Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, ~~my UxwvvyEjyovvvy~~ Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. With this, I respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations) ~~UD \$/vUvM~~ public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.