

Unique Opportunity: Special Interdisciplinary Seminar!

MUSEUM CULTURES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF MUSEUMS

ANTH 340 / AHIS/HIST 479

Spring 2022, Thurs. 2–4.50pm

A unique opportunity to learn about museums from an interdisciplinary approach. For one time only, this class will be co-taught by professors Daniela Bleichmar (Art History, History) and Nancy Lutkehaus (Anthropology) as part of the USC Provost's Interdisciplinary Program. The class will introduce students to the study of museums from an interdisciplinary perspective that includes anthropology, art history, history, the history of science, and museum studies. The seminar provides an introduction to the history and theory of Western museums as institutions of knowledge, addressing their origin and transformation over time. Key concepts and topics we will examine include “cultural heritage;” practices of collection and exhibition; current efforts by curators, anthropologists, artists, scientists, and activists to “decolonize” the museum; and the relationship between museums and colonialism, imperialism, and national and ethnic identity. The seminar will include multiple field trips to museums in the greater Los Angeles area, where we will meet with curators and other museum professionals to discuss current and future exhibitions.