

TEACHING WITH OBJECTS

(Weekly Canvas Class Outline for ANTHRO3636)

PRE-READING

Please briefly read through the following articles from Schultz:

[OBL or Learning from Objects in the Anthropology Museum](#)

[Indigenous Pedagogies in University Museums](#)

Peabody Museum Teaching materials (please browse both of these to orient you to the session activity):

[Guide to Teaching from Collections](#)

[Instructor Template](#)

OVERVIEW

The pedagogical strategy we will be engaging with this week is object-based learning, a strategy that is particularly pertinent to teaching within anthropology. Although diverse in scope, courses offered across both programs in the Anthropology department find in connection that they are largely center on exploring the breadth and depth of the human experience (engaging with both other and othered perspectives), prioritize the teaching of new frames of thinking and critical approaches over rote learning, and inherently require students to engage in self-reflexive space.

Object-based learning, where a tangible object is used as a prompt / focus / disruption etc., is a powerful teaching strategy that can be utilized to meet these common course objectives. Used within a class space, object-based learning can help students locate themselves in their own process of learning, attuning them to the ways in which knowledge is constructed and disseminated, and can help them not only to delineate their own existing frames of understanding, but to discern interpretations and meaning-making from other perspectives.

IN-CLASS

In this session we will be engaging in a Teaching and Learning Activity with staff from the Peabody Museum. The museum has strong ties to our department, and is often a largely untapped resource in terms of creating dynamic, vibrant, and tactile sections. This session simultaneously serves as a really great introduction to the what the Peabody can offer you to help with your sections, giving you first-hand experience with both sides of a useful teaching strategy, and also is aimed at strengthening bonds between graduate students and the Peabody staff.

In this class, you will first be led through an object-based learning activity by museum staff where you will try to understand an unfamiliar ethnographic object. In this activity, you will be situated as students within a classroom. We will then have a reflective discussion regarding the object-learning activity from an instructor viewpoint, thinking through both how you learnt and unpacked complicated ideas during the lesson and how the strategy could be incorporated in your own classrooms.

The museum portion of this session will be led by Dr Lainie Schultz - the academic partnership co-coordinator at the Peabody, who holds her PhD in Social Anthropology, and whose work you are reading prior to class. Class will meet in the Peabody Museum Viewing Room B8 - please meet for class in the Peabody Museum foyer.