

MUSEUMS 301 Midterm Examination

The midterm examination for MUSEUMS 301 is intended to draw on several aspects of the class experience this term—lectures, readings, and periodic film viewing assignments. The midterm is an individual activity though you are free to refer to notes, outside readings, and other scholarly resources—unless stated otherwise—to help shape your answers. You are expected to advance well-reasoned, clearly stated, and carefully edited responses that are supported with concrete examples wherever possible. References should be acknowledged, whether it's an assigned reading, a guest lecture, or a reading you discovered on your own.

Be very careful in the preparation and formatting of your responses. Your responses should be set double spaced in 12-point type. **Print THREE different sets of responses to hand in.** All sets of answers should have your name on them and should be stapled as appropriate. When you hand in your midterm, then, you should have three documents to turn in. Please ask for clarification if needed. You will be turning in your exam as a paper assignment in class. Individual answers to the two essay questions should not exceed 2-3 pages in length so you'll need to be concise and to the point.

Your midterm is due in lecture on Wednesday, October 25. Late submissions will be marked down appropriately. The examination counts for 25% of your final class grade. Good luck!

1. Provide short answers to the following:
 - A. Name at least two ways in which the de-accessioning of George Catlin paintings from Chicago's Field Museum was controversial.
 - B. Provide two primary reasons why museums should exercise caution when considering de-accessioning items from their collection.
 - C. Define the term "repatriation" with regard to museum collections and cite at least two instances/examples in which repatriation was discussed in class.
 - D. What is the essential difference between a collection of objects owned by an individual collector and a museum?
 - E. Reformer John Cotton Dana is credited with many innovations in American museums. What was it specifically that Dana was reacting against?

(5 points total/no credit given for partially correct answers)

2. Using the article by Fitz Gibbon as your starting point, discuss the debate over ownership of the Elgin/Parthenon Marbles, addressing the following points:
 - What is the origin and specific nature of the conflict?
 - What arguments for ownership have been advanced by the countries involved?
 - Why might ownership of the Marbles matter to the parties involved?

(10 points)

3. The film *Robbing the Cradle of Civilization*, about the 2003 looting of the Iraqi National Museum, provides a case study for exploring ethical issues surrounding ownership and care of the world's cultural heritage. According to this film, who are the "major players" in the world's antiquities market and what motivates each of these groups to participate? Specifically, what role do museums play in this network? Finally, in your opinion, which of these groups is ultimately responsible for "robbing the cradle of civilization"? Use specific examples from the film, class readings, or lectures to support your answer.

(10 points)