

Exhibiting Antiquity: *The Culture and Politics of Display*

HUM 397 / ART_HIST 318 / CLASSICS 397

TTh 2:00-3:20 pm

Ann Gunter

FULFILLS DISTROS 4 OR 6: *Historical Studies or Literature and Fine Arts*

How do institutions such as museums—and websites and archaeological sites developed as tourist destinations—shape and construct our notions of the past? How are these institutions enmeshed with broader cultural and political agendas regarding cultural identity and otherness, the formation of artistic canons, and even the concept of ancient art?

This course explores modern strategies of collecting, classification, and display of material culture from ancient Egypt, the Middle East, Greece, and Rome, both in Europe and the U.S. and in their present-day homelands. By analyzing programs of collecting and display, it seeks to understand both the development of modern scholarship in ancient art and the intersection of institutional and scholarly programs. Topics will include the historical development of modern displays devoted to ancient civilizations in museums, notions of authenticity and identity, issues of cultural heritage and patrimony, temporary and “blockbuster” shows, virtual exhibitions and museums, and the archaeological site as a locus of display.

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