

Natural History Collections – Museum & Heritage Studies 112
Spring 2020

Martin 309, Tuesdays 1:00-4:00 pm
Google Classroom Code: [REDACTED]

SCHEUDLE OF CLASSES, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMINATIONS*

Books and articles are available as reserve items in Lipscomb Library; articles and lone chapters are also available on e-reserves and on Google Classroom under “Required Reading” unless otherwise noted.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READINGS (due week following date posted)	OTHER WORK
21 January	History and Scientific Value of Natural History Collections	* <i>Cabinet of Curiosities</i> : pages 1-13 & 165-181 * <i>Epochs of Nature</i> , First Discourse * <i>Finding Order in Nature</i> , Introduction & chapter 1 * “On the origin of natural history” (handout) *EXTRA: ‘Nicholas Steno and the Origins of Natural History”	Worksheet 1 : Richard Owen, <i>On the extent & aims of a National Museum of Natural History</i> 1862 (due 4 February) Tour & History of RC Collections *ideas for “Cabinet of Curiosity” specimens
28 January	Geology & Geologic Processes	* <i>Cabinet of Curiosities</i> : chapter 1 * <i>Finding Order in Nature</i> ch. 2, 3	Start “Cabinet of Curiosity” specimen worksheet (due 11 February)
4 February	Evolution & History of Earth	* <i>Cabinet of Curiosities</i> : pgs 37-49 and 50-75 * Foucault, <i>The Order of Things</i> , “Classifying” * Dodo article (handout) * “Ruffling Feathers” (Google Classroom)	Worksheet 1 due (Richard Owen)
11 February	Bird & Mammal Collections	* <i>Cabinet of Curiosities</i> : pgs 77-113 and 114-143 * <i>Finding Order in Nature</i> ch. 4 * “On the significance of small dead things” (handout) * “The insect apocalypse is here”: https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/27/magazine/insect-apocalypse.html	“Cabinet of Curiosity” specimen worksheet due
18 February	Invertebrate Collections; Zooniverse & Citizen Science	* Smithsonian Article on James Rebanks and George Monbiot: https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/britain-lake-district-immortalized-beatrix-potter-beloved-landscape-180968736/	Quiz I on history of museums, geology & fossils plus Part I of <i>Feather Thief</i> Zooniverse activity & worksheet

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * "How Cities Shape Evolution," https://www.wired.com/story/urban-wildlife-evolution-climate-change/ * John Stuart Mill "On Nature" (Google Classroom) *Begin Part II—<i>Feather Thief</i> 	
25 February	Rewilding (discussion with Dr. Schwartz & research students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Cabinet of Curiosities</i>: pgs 147-161 * <i>Finding Order in Nature</i> ch. 5, 6 	Start brochure assignment (Part I of final project)
3 March	Botany & the Herbarium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Field Notes on Science & Nature</i> ch 9, "The evolution & fate of botanical field books" 	Herbarium assignment (due 17 March): 1) "Botany collecting on the <i>Endeavour</i>": http://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/departments-and-staff/library-and-archives/collections/cook-voyages-collection/endeavour-botanical-illustrations/ 2) Emily Dickinson Herbarium: https://www.brainpickings.org/2017/05/23/emily-dickinson-herbarium/ (article) https://iiif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:4184689\$1i (digitized herbarium)
7-15 March	SPRING BREAK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>House of Lost Worlds</i> ch 21, "The Art of Being Invisible" and <i>Future of Natural History Museums</i> ch 6, "Imagining the future of natural history museum exhibitions"; OR * <i>Stuffed Animals & Pickled Heads</i> ch 5 "Exhibiting Evolution" *EXTRA: Walton Ford article "Man and Beast", https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/01/26/man-and-beast#) 	
17 March	Natural History Exhibits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Finding Order in Nature</i> ch. 7, 8 * Read short articles under "Museum Exhibitions" topics (Google Classroom) to gather ideas for final project; especially "The MICRO Museum" https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/putting-miniature-museums-where-you-are-likely-to-see-them-180967611/ 	Herbarium assignment due Quiz 2 on biological collections and Part II of <i>Feather Thief</i> Start Display Box assignment (Part II of Final Project—due 21 April)
20 March	Install "Cabinet of Curiosity" *extra credit to volunteers (2%)		

24 March	Conserving Natural History Collections; Archival Materials	* <i>Future of Natural History Museums</i> ch 9, “Natural history museums, zoos, and aquariums” * <i>Spectacle</i> 3-39 *zoo ethics article: https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4658985	Conserv-O-Gram assignment (due 7 April) Field Trip: Rare Book Room & Archives worksheet
26-29 March	Science Fest	*extra credit to SciFest volunteers (1% per hour, up to 5 hours)	
31 March	Living Collections: Zoos, Botanic Gardens, Nature Preserves	* <i>House of Lost Worlds</i> ch 22, “Into the Unmapped World” OR <i>Curators</i> ch 11 * “Smoked Heads” * <i>Spectacle</i> 40-76	“Matter of Life and Death” & worksheet (in class)
7 April	Anthropology & the Natural History of Material Culture	* <i>Natural History of Selborne Letters XVI-XX</i> * <i>Field Notes on Science & Nature</i> : Bernd Heinrich, “Untangling the Bank” & ch 12, “Why keep a field notebook?” * <i>Finding Order in Nature</i> ch. 9 & Epilogue	Conserv-O-Gram assignment due Field Trip: Old City Cemetery
14 April	Collecting in the Field	* “Peter Pindar, Joseph Banks, and the Case Against Natural History” * <i>Curators</i> ch 7 “Adventures of my curatorial colleagues from the field”	Field Trip: iNaturalist activity & worksheet
21 April	Why Collections Matter	* <i>Dry Storeroom No. 1</i> , ch. 9 “House of the Muses” * <i>Future of Natural History Museums</i> ch 1, “The future of natural history collections” & ch 5, “The essential role of museums in biodiversity conservation”	Final Project DUE (Brochure & Display Box) Discussion of Final Readings
28 April	Final Project	* <i>Finish Feather Thief</i>	Display Box & Brochure Presentations
May	FINALS WEEK		Final Quiz on conservation, ethics, importance of collections, & Part III of <i>Feather Thief</i>