

# History of Museums

## (School of Archaeology and Museology)

Teacher: Celine Lai

TA: TBC

Dates: Jun 30~Jul 11, 2025

### Course description:

This course concerns the history of world museums from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with the purpose of finding their implications for contemporary museum collections and development, especially for China. Museums have always been regarded as a product of modernity and have witnessed significant changes over the last three hundred years: they have evolved from a treasure cabinet of the European upper class into a museum owned by citizens; from a gathering spot for scholars into a fun place for visitors of all ages; and from a place of top-down learning into an urban landmark. These changes cause many museums today to ponder over their collecting aims, development approach, and expansion possibilities. The course begins with a background of museums being established in Europe in the early years, moves on to the America, Asia and other countries.

### Course objectives:

1. Master first-hand literature on the history of museum development;
2. Understand the different development models of major museum of the world in their original socio-historical contexts;
3. Establish cross-disciplinary thinking in Archeology, Museum Studies, Art and Cultural Heritage;
4. Analyze contemporary Chinese museums in relation to their collections and development.

### Evaluation:

Percentage	Assignment	Requirement	Date
20%	In-class presentation	To be announced.	To be decided on the first day of class.
80%	End of term essay	Pre-given essay topic. 7000~8000 words in English.	After the course ends

## Topics and reading materials:

Date	Topic
6.30~7.1	<b>Introduction: Museum Management Structure and Collecting Practices</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>MacDonald, Sharon. 'Collecting Practices' in Sharon MacDonald ed. <i>The Companion to Museum Studies</i>, ed. by Sharon MacDonald Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2006, pp. 81-97.</li><li>Lewis, Geoffrey. 'The history of museum' in <i>Encyclopaedia Britannica</i>, first published in 1999 and last edited online in 2021 by the site's editors. Available online: <a href="https://www.britannica.com/topic/museum-cultural-institution">https://www.britannica.com/topic/museum-cultural-institution</a>.</li><li>The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 'Collection Management Policy', approved document by the MET's Board of Trustees, 2021, published online.</li></ol>
<b>Part I Museums in Europe and the States</b>	
7.2~7.4	<b>Early Museums: From the Cabinet of Curiosities to the Public Museums</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Abt, Jeffrey. 'The origins of public museum' in Sharon MacDonald ed. <i>The Companion to Museum Studies</i>, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2006, pp. 115-134.</li><li>出口保夫、吕理州译《大英博物馆的故事》(台北:麦田)2009年,第13—95页。</li><li>David Cash. <i>Access to the Museum Culture: The British Museum from 1753 to 1836</i>. London: Trustees of the British Museum, 2002, pp. 9-31; pp. 165-196 and pp. 226-238.</li><li>Duncan, Carol. 'From the princely gallery to the public art museum: the Louvre Museum and the National Gallery, London' in <i>Civilizing Rituals: Inside Public Art Museums</i>. London and New York: Routledge, 1995, pp. 21-47.</li><li>Alexander, E.P. (亚历山大), 陈双双译《美国博物馆: 创新者和先驱》(南京:译林出版社)2016年,第45-67页。</li><li>Grunenburg, Christoph. 'The modern art museum' in Emma Barker (ed) <i>Contemporary Cultures of Displays</i>. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999, pp. 26—49.</li><li>马琳:《西方艺术展览制度研究》,上海:上海大学出版社,2024年,第150-222页。</li></ol>
<b>Part II Museums from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the Present</b>	
7.7~7.9	<b>Museum in Japan, China, and the Emirates</b>

- a. P. F. Kornicki. 'Public display and changing values. Early Meiji exhibitions and their precursors', *Monumenta Nipponica*, 1994, vol. 49, no. 2, pp. 167-196.
- b. 黎婉欣: 《近中国学术视野下的北疆博物院—兼论桑志华的博物馆经营理念》, 《中国国家博物馆馆刊》2021年第8期
- c. Graebner, Seth. 'The Louvre Abu Dhabi: French Universalism, Exported', *L'esprit createur*, 2014, 54(2), pp. 186-199.
- d. Ritvala, Tiina, et al. 'The international expansion of an art museum: Guggenheim's global-local contexts', Kevin Ibeh eds, *Growth Frontiers in International Business*. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2017, pp. 145-166.
- e. Walsh, Victoria. 'Tate Britain: Curating Britishness and Cultural Diversity', *Tate Encounter [E]dition 2*, 2008, pp. 1-18

### Part III Chinese museum collections

**7.10~11**

#### **Chinese major museums and their collection features**

- a. Rawson, Jessica. *Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing*, London : British Museum Press, 1995
- b. Monika Kopplin (ed.), *Lacquerware in Asia: Today and Yesterday*, Paris: the UNESCO, 2002
- c. Sullivan, Michael. *The Arts of China*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008.
- a. Wu Hung, *The Art of the Yellow Springs: Understanding Chinese Tombs*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2010, pp. 17—47.