

# ANTH 373

## MUSEUMS AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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*INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jennifer Claire Robinson*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

This course will examine the roles of museums and their collections in the production of knowledge and relationships among communities of peoples. Topics will include the colonial history of museums, anthropology's role in creating collections and exhibitions, exhibition strategies, the role of museums and their collections in an era of Truth and Reconciliation, community-based research, and curatorial practices. Emphasis is on engagement between Canadian museums and First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities and collections of material culture. Special to this course are engagement classes with Indigenous heritage professional who will be sharing their experiences of working in museums and changing the museological landscape in Canada. Students will also complete an applied curatorial research project in collaboration with a local museum.

### **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

- Students will learn about critical historical events and movements as part of museums practice in Canada.
- Students will develop critical skills for looking at the historical construction of cultural representations through museums as well as present day decolonial approaches to museology and work by heritage professionals.
- Students will learn from case study implementation of policies and reports including Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls To Action, Canadian Museums Association's New Partnership Agreement; and the Royal BC Museum's Repatriation Handbook.
- Students will have opportunities to converse with and learn from practicing Indigenous heritage professionals.
- Students will gain practical skills in archival and curatorial research as well as further develop critical writing skills.