Course Title: Treasure: Objects of Desire in Global History

Course Number and Section: HISTORY 1818G 550

Instructor Name(s): Tim Compeau

Instructor Email(s): tcompea@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:
This course explores how precious objects such as religious relics, ancient artifacts, luxury goods, and commodities have shaped global history. The possession and pursuit of scarce and precious commodities, or objects that confer political power, cultural legitimacy, or sacred meaning, are recurring sources of conflict throughout history. Using a variety of global case studies, students will investigate how diverse cultures have interpreted, competed over, and used objects of desire in religion, diplomacy, trade, war, imperialism, and migration.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the course students will...

• have a working understanding of the methods of material cultural analysis and be able to apply theory to a wide range of historical topics.

• understand how the competition over commodities and precious objects has shaped global history.

• appreciate the various ways cultures embody the sacred in objects.

• understand how objects and conspicuous consumption can confer power, prestige, and authority.

• appreciate the trauma of losing precious national, cultural, or religious artifacts.

• develop sensitivity and respect for different cultural understandings of objects.

• understand the issues at stake in current artifact repatriation debates.

• refine their ability to analyze primary source texts, images, and artifacts.

• refine their research skills and solve research problems to determine the essential components of the argument, organize the parts of their essay, and draw conclusions.

Textbooks and Course Materials:
All readings can be found in the library databases and/or have their stable URLs listed in the OWL resources section.
Methods Of Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date mm/dd/yy</th>
<th>Weight - %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artifact Analysis</td>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Outline</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lũnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023