COURSE DETAIL

COLONIALISM, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND MUSEUMS
Country Italy
Host Institution University of Bologna
Program(s) University of Bologna
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Archaeology
UCEAP Course Number 189
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title COLONIALISM, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND MUSEUMS
UCEAP Transcript Title COLONLSM ARCOL&MUSM
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This is a graduate level course that is part of the Laurea Magistrale program. The course is intended for advanced level students only. Enrollment is by consent of the instructor. The course focuses on the historical and epistemological relationships linking the development of archaeology and museology to colonialism. Special attention is placed on the current debates on decolonization and contemporary movements in countries with a colonial past that involve debates on topics such as repatriation of human remains and artefacts, local curators, and community archaeology. The course places the history of archaeology and museums in a wider epistemological framework and offers a critical analysis of archaeological and museological theory and practice. Students have a chance to apply their analytical skills to professional activities linked with the popularization and public use of archaeological and museum-linked expertise. The course deals with the development of Western archaeological/anthropological enquiry and museum collections in the wider historical and epistemological context of European colonial expansion and follows a roughly chronological order. Starting with the birth of antiquarian practices in the 16th century, the course explores the many ways in which scientific enquiry has been entangled with colonialism. Special attention is devoted to the study of extra-European peoples and pasts, with a specific focus on indigenous America. Selected case studies are explored in order to shed light on the ways in which the entanglement developed over the centuries, stressing not only how archaeological research and collecting practices benefited from European political domination of non-Western countries, but also how academic disciplines have been instrumental in providing the epistemological frameworks which legitimized colonial domination, thus creating a circular, self-sustaining relationship of mutual support. The last part of the course focuses on recent attempts at the decolonization of archeological and museum activities through the implementation of good practices such as collaborative and community archaeology, object repatriation, and indigenous curatorship.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number
93150

Host Institution Course Title
COLONIALISM, ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS (LM)

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/course-unit-catalogue/course-unit/2021/454654

Host Institution Campus
BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty
LETTERE

Host Institution Degree
LM in Archaeology

Host Institution Department
ARCHAEOLOGY

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

Print