Framework-based Instruction in Art History: From the First-Year Survey to the Senior Seminar

ARH 112 Survey of Non-Western Art
Authority is Constructed and Contextual

- Writing intensive section of global art survey; formal writing assignment asking students to examine the construct of "primitive art" as it relates to the concept of primitivism in Western art
- Students need to navigate between early description and analysis of "primitive art" that uses the construct uncritically, and the current scholarly conversation that problematizes earlier uses as lacking historicity, cultural specificity, or acknowledgement of creators, master artists, and stylistic progression (Antliff & Leighton, 2003)
- Library instruction focuses on evaluation exercises asking students to interrogate ostensible authorities on African sculpture, fiber art, and mask art in different contexts

ARH 219 Sophomore Seminar in Art History
Searching as Strategic Exploration

- Sophomore seminar requires students to engage in a scaffolded, semester-long research project about a topic related to American ceramics
- Library instruction introduces students to scholarly research methods situated in the discipline of art history and focuses on developing a range of strategic approaches for identifying and accessing potential sources
- This includes knowing how and when to search and navigate between Google Books, WorldCat, ILLiad, artist's websites, databases, Google Scholar, museum catalogs, printed exhibition catalogs, and collections in museum libraries

ARH 347 American Art
Information Creation as a Process

- Instruction focuses on asking students consider the creation process of disparate items comprising personal "papers," the creation process of an archive, and the process of constructing and negotiating knowledge about an artist's life and works as part of primary source analyses of items in Edward Gropper's digitized papers
- Students are asked to reflect on how the process of cataloging and describing art works is an act of information creation (using Dublin Core, controlled vocabularies, and collaboratively authored labels for folklore lithographs) for a final class exhibit in Omeka

ARH 405 Art History Research Seminar
Research as Inquiry

- Capstone seminar for senior art history majors that requires students to identify and pursue a topic of personal interest in a semester-long researched writing project
- Library instruction focuses on helping students brainstorm possible topics by framing research as a process of inquiry and iteration
- Students participate in reflective writing about their research processes, interests, and motivations, and complete scaffolded exercises that push students to articulate new questions at each stage of research

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