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Asian Languages and Cultures  
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## **“Teaching Undergraduates in the Archives: the Future of the Past”**

### **Final Paper for Asian Studies 235: An Introduction to the Study of Asian Cultures**

#### **Contents**

- Choose two “objects” from the university’s libraries or museums. You should choose something that interest you and that you feel will allow you to write a paper that broadly addresses topics we have covered in this class. You may choose objects which we have looked at in class or on a field trip or you may find your own object.
- Choose two “keywords” which will allow you to analyze your objects in a way that allows you to make connections with our readings this semester. Choose words that will facilitate making connections. You may choose any word you want but make sure that the words will allow you to think about the objects in productive ways.

#### **Form**

The paper should be 4-6 pages in length (double spaced). Be sure to cite all of your sources and provide bibliographical information either in footnotes or in a separate bibliography. If you are able to, please provide an image of your objects.

#### **What to Include**

- You should provide a basic description of your objects (including where they are housed) and any relevant background information you have found out either from a written source or from a curator/librarian with whom you have talked.
- For your keywords, you should provide a basic definition from the OED; if appropriate, you should cite relevant passages from the readings where you have encountered your keywords before.
- Always be specific and concrete; avoid broad generalizations. If you refer to previous readings, be specific and give page numbers as well as quotations where appropriate. Avoid overly broad generalizations: “The Chinese...,” “Eastern culture...,” “Asians...”.

#### **What to Aim For**

- One of the purposes of this assignment is to have you explore what resources are available for the study of Asian Cultures on campus and to discover something that really interests you. You should have fun coming up with a topic and exploring it.
- The other purpose of this assignment is to have you think about broad themes in specific contexts and to think about things that you may have taken for granted before.
- Make connections: show us what you have learned in the class. Learning is cumulative and one of the points of this class is to help you develop critical skills that you can use in other classes as well.