

October 26, 2016

Dear Colleague:

Each Fall we write you to offer the Harn Museum of Art at UF as a resource for your teaching, whatever your discipline. We have provided relevant and creative educational content for faculty throughout UF and are eager to work with you!

Can the art museum offer meaningful teaching support in your discipline? We've developed productive programs for your colleagues in these fields and units:

Advertising  
African American Studies  
African Studies  
Anthropology  
Architecture  
Art  
Art Education  
Art History  
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Biology  
Classics  
Dance

Design Construction and Planning  
Digital Worlds Institute  
Economics  
Education  
Engineering  
English  
Entomology & Nematology  
European Studies  
Evolutionary Genetics  
First Year Florida  
Florida Museum of Natural History

Food Science and Human Nutrition  
Geography  
History  
Honors Program  
Innovation Academy  
Interior Design  
Jewish Studies  
Journalism and Communications  
Languages, Literatures & Cultures  
Landscape Architecture  
Latin American Studies  
Law

Linguistics  
Medicine  
Museum Studies  
Music  
Nursing  
Philosophy  
Physical Therapy

Political Science  
Public Relations  
Religion  
Sociology  
Spanish & Portuguese Studies  
Telecommunication  
Theater & Dance  
Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management  
Veterinary Medicine  
Warrington College of Business Administration  
What is the Good Life?  
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation  
Women's Studies  
Writing Program  
Written and Oral Communication

“Our course visits to the Harn and discussions with museum staff members are far and away the highlight of the semester for my classes.”

- Holly Donohoe, Assistant Professor in Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management



Dr. Peggy Borum, Professor of Human Nutrition in IFAS with graduate students discussing visual communications strategies and graphical abstracts in science.

If your area is not on this list, we challenge you to change that!

Following are some frequently asked questions from faculty about teaching with the Harn.

## What are the benefits of bringing my class to the Harn?

The museum provides students with a stimulating learning experience as they engage with compelling physical objects. Moreover, the cross-disciplinary encounter with art – viewed through the lens of your field of study – is rich with potential to make abstract principals concrete, build experiential understanding of concepts and connect complex ideas to memorable learning contexts.

Harn staff members are eager to connect their expertise to your diverse areas of inquiry and brainstorm solutions to pedagogical challenges. Many faculty members feel invigorated by the creative experience of thinking about their academic fields through art.

“What an inspirational class you prepared! I think it worked in perfectly with our theme. The students found it totally fascinating as did I. I cannot think of any way of improving the class, even the bus service worked perfectly.”

- Jane Houston,  
Clinical Assistant Professor in Nursing

## How much work is involved in bringing my class to the Harn?

While some instructors have developed entire syllabi around the Harn (Professor Shifra Armon-Little’s *Spanish in the Museum*), more typically we develop class tours, presentations or assignments based upon the pedagogical goals you articulate to us. For instance, when Professor Nigel Smith was looking to bring his *Geography of Alcohol* course to the museum, the curator of African Art, Susan Cooksey, identified works in the collection related to beer brewing, storage and consumption. Dr. Cooksey’s presentation of these remarkable objects brought them to life for students and reinforced the cultural and contextual lessons that Dr. Smith seeks to drive home. It all starts with a phone call or email to get us to join you in exploring possibilities.

“I really enjoyed the lectures at the Harn Museum, with Dr. Segal. His discussion on Hogarth’s prints, accompanied by the physical copies made for a wonderful trip to the museum. Since I have very rarely studied etchings or prints in my other Art History classes, I think it was a very interesting and invaluable class.”

- A student comment shared by  
Melissa Hyde,  
Professor in Art History

## My students don’t need an art history lesson; why should I bring them to the art museum?

“Thank you for the informative tours you gave us at the Harn. In class discussion yesterday, students discussed how learning more about (and *seeing*) art and cultural artifacts helped them to further explore and understand course readings and topics.”

- Sophia Acord,  
Instructor in Sociology

While we are passionate about art and art history, we are equally excited by the prospect of connecting with students in all majors. That can’t be done by teaching them art history in their biology classes. Rather, Harn staff members are focused on re-framing the art collection to address your disciplinary concerns. When Professor Emilio Bruna met with us to think about how the Harn could support his instruction in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation we developed a project that contributed to doctoral level training for students in Natural Resources and Environment and Anthropology (view results of his students’ work at <http://descourtiz.wordpress.com/>).

**What does it cost to bring my class to the Harn?**

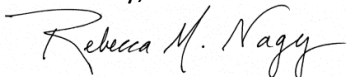
Nothing at all. A central mission of the Harn is to support research and teaching at the University.

**What about other collaborations related to research or teaching?**

We welcome your inquiries about possible collaborations on projects of mutual interest. The Harn collaborates with units across UF on exhibitions, lectures, readings and other programs. Find out more about these opportunities at <http://www.harn.ufl.edu/universityeducators>

The photographs below show students at the Harn, learning through firsthand engagement with great works of art. We hope you will be inspired to make similar experiences available to your students. To do so, please contact Eric Segal at [esegal@harn.ufl.edu](mailto:esegal@harn.ufl.edu), 392-9826 x2115.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Nagy, Director



Eric Segal, Director of Education and Curator of Academic Programs



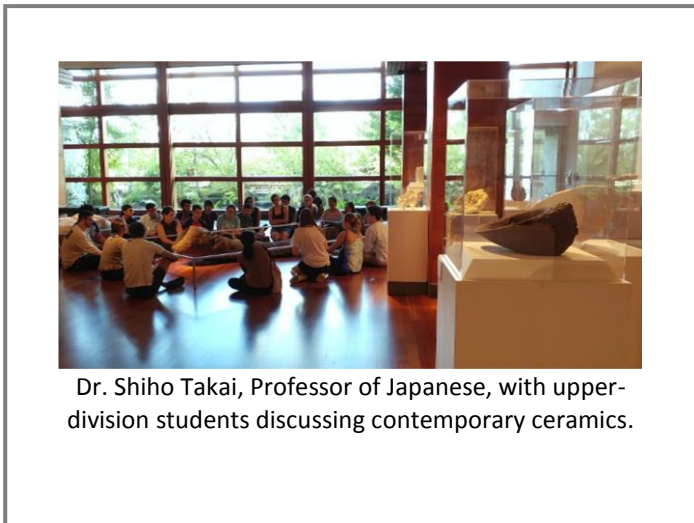
Dr. Esam Alhadi of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures with Arabic language students examining Quranic writing boards.



Mixed science majors studying natural history prints.



Professor Bill McGehee's students in Geriatric Physical Therapy sharpening skills in observation and empathy.



Dr. Shiho Takai, Professor of Japanese, with upper-division students discussing contemporary ceramics.