

## ***Instructionally Related Activities Report Form***

SPONSOR: Alison Locke Perchuk

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: Art

ACTIVITY TITLE: Global Premodern Studies Lecture Series, 2017–18

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: Lecture #1: 10/12/17; Lecture #2: 11/30/17; Lecture #3: 2/20/18;  
Lecture #4: 4/26/18.

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at [david.daniels@csuci.edu](mailto:david.daniels@csuci.edu) within 30 days after the activity. Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

### **A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;
  - (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
  - (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
  - (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
  - (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?
  - (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?
  - (7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)
  - 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.
- 

### **B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:**

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

---

### **C. IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:**

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. Please attach these photos in .JPEG format directly to email. Thank you!

## (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

The activity comprised four discrete lectures engaging the theme of knowledge in the premodern world. This year's series was truly interdisciplinary, with speakers coming from the disciplines of indigenous archaeology, archaeoastronomy, medieval art history, and Judaic and Islamic religious studies.

The first talk, "Material Culture of Knowledge: Case Studies from Indigenous California", was by Dr. Jennifer Perry, Associate Professor of Anthropology at CSUCI. Held on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 30-35 people attended including Dr. Colleen Delaney, Anthropology, and Dr. Amy Caldwell, History, with the majority being students from Anthropology, History, and other majors. Dr. Perry discussed ritual knowledge and practices among native Californian peoples, focusing on the symbolism and contexts of rock art and ritual items. Students posed good questions at the end, noting connections to their current course work. Feedback given to Dr. Perry by her students who attended was very positive, noting that it was enjoyable to delve more deeply into the topic of religion and spirituality among different societies.

The second talk, "Conceptions of the Sky and Universe throughout the Centuries - a Survey of Cultural Astronomy", was by Dr. Bryan Penprase, Dean of Faculty and Professor of Science at Soka University. Held on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, it was attended by 50-60 people including Dr. Delaney, Dr. Perry, and Dr. Alison Perchuk. Dr. Perry offered extra credit for attendance to her students in two of her courses, *Native Californians* and *Altered States of Consciousness*. The most common feedback from students was either literally or the equivalent to: "Mind Blown!" Many said something to the effect of "I didn't think I had the time/I felt too stressed to do anything 'extra', but that it was SO worth it and I know my friends missed out on something amazing!" It was pretty impressive that, especially that late in the semester, so many students attended and were truly engaged in Dr. Penprase's extraordinary discussion of humankind's relationship with the stars through time.

The third lecture, "The Art of Knowledge: Visualizing the *Artes Liberales* in Medieval Art," was delivered by Dr. Marius Hauknes, Assistant Professor of Medieval Art History, University of Notre Dame. Held on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, it drew a healthy crowd of 30-40 students, including students enrolled in two of Dr. Perchuk's art history courses, *Goddesses and Heroes* and *Art History: Tools and Methods* and Dr. Caldwell's *Medieval History* course, who received extra credit for their attendance. This lecture discussed recently discovered thirteenth-century frescoes in Rome that functioned as a virtual encyclopedia of primary aspects of knowledge, and used figures associated with knowledge to confer prestige on their patrons. Students found the material complex but appreciated the opportunity to expand their knowledge of medieval art.

The final lecture, "Transmit Knowledge from the Sons of Israel": The Problem of Jewish Lore in Islamic Tradition," was delivered on 26 April 2018 by Dr. Michael Pregill of the Institute for the

Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations at Boston University. The late date proved a challenge; only a handful of students were in attendance, all of whom were enrolled in Dr. Perchuk's classes on ancient art and on methods in art history. Attendees learned about ways in which early Islamic scholars understood the relation of the Qur'an to earlier revelations, and in particular how they negotiated intellectual and social relationships with Judaism. Several students remained after the lecture to speak further with Dr. Pregill, thanking him for a fascinating lecture on a topic that is both esoteric and quite relevant today.

## **(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?**

The range of topics addressed in this year's lectures assured an overlap with several learning areas, including anthropology, archeology, art history, history, history of science, and religious studies. Students were encouraged to attend relevant lectures through the awarding of extra credit by Prof. Delaney, Perry, Perchuk, and Caldwell; Dr. Penprase's lecture was also a required assignment for the introduction to astronomy course. Series like this offer students the opportunity to learn about their subject from scholarly voices beyond those of their professors, and to be introduced to different types of questions and interpretive approaches.

## **(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?**

The diversity of disciplinary perspectives on the premodern world has been a hallmark of the Global Premodern Studies Lecture Series since its inception. Lectures bring emerging, mid-career, and established scholars from different local, national, and international universities to CI, providing a range of scholarly voices. This type of activity is central to the continued development of a culture of intellectual inquiry at CI, providing a forum for students to learn in the company of faculty and peers.

## **(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?**

The activity has had two main weaknesses since its inception. The first is that speakers do not always pitch their presentations to a general interest, undergraduate audience. The second is that the advertising of the events has not always been effective at drawing audiences.

## **(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?**

The series is on hiatus for the 2018-19 academic year, but for the following season we intend to plan events further in advance in order to have a single poster advertising all lectures available at the start of the fall term, to work more effectively with the university's calendar and marketing, and to support better curricular integration of the talks.

**(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?**

There is a real demand among our students for intellectually stimulating, yet accessible, scholarly presentations. It would be desirable to see a campus-wide lecture series initiative that helped CI to continue to foster a culture of inquiry and research. Modelling scholarship outside of the class setting is an important part of this process.

**(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)**

No separate evaluations were gathered; anecdotal responses are summarized in the comments above.

**(8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.**

The expenses for this series included honoraria of \$400 to Dr. Penprase (regional scholar) and \$800 to Dr. Hauknes and Dr. Pregill (national scholars), printing costs, and light refreshments served at the talks (cookies, etc.)

**B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST (PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)**

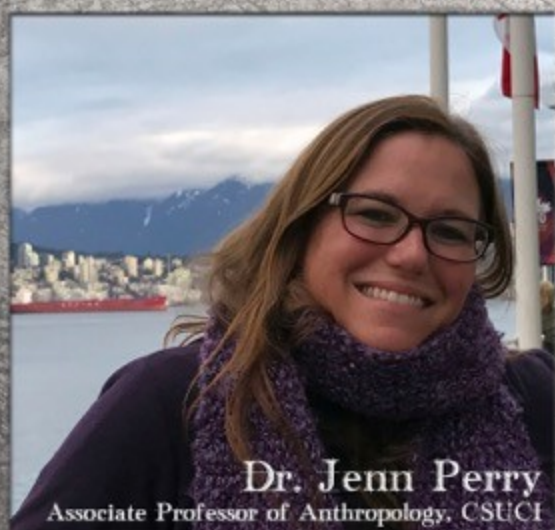
No attendee list was collected, beyond individual professors' sign-in sheets. Students hailed from a range of majors; a few community members attended the talks as well.

**C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR SUBMISSION**



# MATERIAL CULTURE OF KNOWLEDGE

CASE STUDIES FROM INDIGENOUS CALIFORNIA



Dr. Jenn Perry

Associate Professor of Anthropology, CSUCI

Thursday  
OCT. 12 2017

6:00 PM

Del Norte 3550



Channel Islands  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY





Virgin Mary, through of St. Thomas  
Aquinas by: Little of Santa Cecilia, Peru



Virgin Mary, through of St. Thomas  
Aquinas by: Little of Santa Cecilia, Peru



"Transmit Knowledge from the Sons of Israel":  
The Problem of Jewish Lore in Islamic Tradition



Michael Pregill  
Mizan Digital Scholarship Initiative  
[www.mizanproject.org](http://www.mizanproject.org)  
[michael.pregill@gmail.com](mailto:michael.pregill@gmail.com)



# GLOBAL PREMODERN STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

THURSDAY

NOV. **30** 2017

6:00 PM

BROOME LIBRARY 2330



Dr. Bryan Penprase

Dean of Faculty | Professor of Science | Soka University

## CONCEPTIONS OF THE SKY AND UNIVERSE THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES A SURVEY OF CULTURAL ASTRONOMY

Sponsored by the Minor in Global Premodern Studies and CI's programs in Anthropology, Art, and History, with funds provided courtesy of CI's Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Committee.

The University encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodations or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Disability and Accommodations Support Services (DASS) at (805) 437-3331 or [accommodations@csuci.edu](mailto:accommodations@csuci.edu) as soon as possible, but no later than 7 business days prior to the event.



INSTRUCTIONALLY  
RELATED  
ACTIVITIES  
CHANNEL  
ISLANDS