**Native American Art at the Tang**
Native American Art (AH203), Professor Lisa Aronson
Skidmore College

**Objective:** In this assignment you, together with your research partner, will analyze and research selected works of Native American art from the Tang, including several recently donated pieces that have yet to be studied. It is your job to explore the cultural context and meaning of your selected objects, taking into consideration the materials used to make them, the meanings of specific patterns, overall shapes, or colors, the audience or patrons for whom they were made, and the means by which they were acquired. The end product of your research will be a label(s) that addresses such issues, accompanied by a relevant bibliography.

**Access to Images of Objects:** The objects, grouped according to type and/or culture, are posted as “Tang Images” on Blackboard. I have created enough groupings of objects to accommodate the 26 students in the class. By Friday, February 2, you will have selected your partner and group of objects you wish to work on. Email me your selection and the names of the people in your group. To aid in your selection, you can review the groupings of objects in the “Media Library” Section of Blackboard. You can also go to the Special Collections Area of the Tang on Friday, January 23 from 1:30-3:00 (I will be there as well). Other times can be arranged for you to see the objects if this Friday doesn’t work.

**Processing your Work:** With the help of IT, I have set up a blog that you will use to document and share with the class your work on these objects from the time of selection to the writing of your labels. On Tuesday, February 3, we will meet in Harder Hall 108 with Ben Harwood, the Blog creator, to learn how to add to the blog.

**Researching the piece:** You will need to read as much as you can about the work(s) of art and the culture(s) that created them. You will also want to examine the objects in relation to others of their type, and to consider their meanings to their creator, their user, and the person who collected it.

**Writing about the piece:** You will write a one to two paragraph exhibition label for the piece(s) and compile a relevant bibliography, first in draft, and then in final form. The latter will be the last you write in the blog.

**Oral presentation on the piece:** On Monday, May 4, each research team will give an 8-minute presentation on their selected work(s) of art.

See a more detailed timeline on the back of this handout.
Project Timeline:

Friday January 23 - 1:30-3:00 – Collection available for viewing and selection. **February 2 is the deadline for selecting your partner and group of objects.**

Tuesday, February 3 – Class meets with Ben Harwood (Blog creator) in Harder 108 for an introduction to the blog and instructions on how to use it.

Submission #1 - Thursday, February 5 – Talk about why you have selected these objects and the questions/issues they raise for you, particularly as pertains to the body.

Dates to be announced – When students can REview their object(s) in the Tang.

Submission #2 - Thursday, March 5 – Talk about progress you are making on your research, what, if any, new avenues you pursued to find sources and information, including relevant photographs, videos, etc. you have found.

Submission #3 - Tuesday, March 31 – How do ideas taken from the course help to frame your discussion of the pieces? How, in turn, has your research changed your way of looking at these objects?

Submission #4 - Tuesday, April 22 – Submit a draft of your label(s) for comment from me and other class members.

Submission #5 - Tuesday, April 28 – Submit final label(s) with other pertinent information, including field photographs and/or videos.

Monday, May 4– The class meets in Bolton 382 during the designated exam time (1:30-4:30) to give a 10-minute report with images of the works you have researched.