Is Public History a new Phenomenon?
Monuments and Art

- Cave Paintings?
- Roman Triumphal Arches
- Narmer Palette
- Egyptian Stela and Temple Inscriptions
- Rosetta Stone
First Archaeologists

- Nabodinus – Babylonian King, 556-539 BCE
- Thutmosis IV – Egyptian Pharaoh, (reign) 1401–1391 BCE

Motives?
First Museums & Cabinets of Curiosities
First oral historians

- Herodotus
- Thucydides
- Josephus
- The Bible?
Readings - Questions


- Who is the author, what is his/her background?
- What kind of bias does the author have?
- Who is the audience?
- What is the main idea/thesis?
- How can you relate to this?
- What is your opinion on the topic? Do you agree or disagree with the author?
- What was the most interesting part of this, and what was least interesting?
Public History Website

- Who is the author, what is his/her background?
- What kind of bias does the author have?
- Who is the audience?
- What is the main idea/thesis?
- How can you relate to this?
- What is your opinion on the topic?
- Do you agree or disagree with the author?
- What was the most interesting part of this, and what was least interesting?
NCPH Discussion Forums

- Did you find any interesting?
- What did you agree/disagree with?
- Who is writing these?
Discussion Questions

- What is your favorite part of public history? If you don’t have one yet, what are you most interested in learning about?
- What do you expect to learn in this class?
- What is the Goal of a Public Historian, according to Ronald J. Grele? Do you agree?
Weekly Papers

Guidelines:
- Make sure your essay is at least 2 pages, **not** including your heading.
- Put your name, the date, and the weekly topic at the top of the paper.
- **BE SURE** to ask at least 3 questions in your essay.
- Think about these questions:
  - Who is the author, what is his/her background? What kind of bias does the author have?
  - Who is the audience? What is the main idea/thesis? How can you relate to this?
  - What is your opinion on the topic? Do you agree or disagree with the author?
  - What was the most interesting part of this, and what was least interesting?
So... what IS public history?

- What are some of the definitions of public history and where are they from?

- How do YOU define public history?

- English Theologian William Paley, in 1794, "'public history' was a 'register of the successes and disappointments... and the quarrels of those who engage in contentions [for] power'." (From *Public History Review*, vol 10, 2003, p. 5)

- [http://www.publichistory.org/what_is/definition.html](http://www.publichistory.org/what_is/definition.html)
- [http://www.mtsu.edu/publichistory/](http://www.mtsu.edu/publichistory/)
Quotes by my facebook friends:

- Jane— “Here's how I explain it to people in a bar. "You know how soul-suckingly boring history was in school? With all the dates and battles and dead white guys? Public history is that boring a** s*** plus a whole lot of awesome s*** that no one ever tells you about the people, buildings and stuff that makes history actually cool, presented in a way that helps you realize that the past is just like today, but with funny clothes.”

- Kristen— “I usually describe it as non-classroom teaching and preservation (which includes places, spaces, things, and written down things).”

- Angie— “I'm sure public history Ryan Gosling has some ideas” ([http://publichistorianryangosling.tumblr.com/](http://publichistorianryangosling.tumblr.com/))

- Jim Lewis (Future guest speaker) – “Public history is what we park rangers do best.”
Which public? Whose history?
More Questions...

- What about audience and bias?
- Winners v Losers?
- Differences in ideas of history?
- Can someone be “wrong” and another “right”? 
Book activity

- Who wrote this?
- What is the audience?
- How does that affect the writing?
- Is there any obvious bias?
- Are there any inaccuracies?
- How is this Public History?
The case of the Elgin Marbles...

- [http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/article_index/w/what_are_the_elgin_marbles.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/article_index/w/what_are_the_elgin_marbles.aspx)
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/parthenon_debate_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/parthenon_debate_01.shtml)