Sample Assignment #1
Using Any Campus Museum as an Object

Art historian Carol Duncan has described museums as sites for the expression of national power. How might that process work? Can you find any physical evidence to support this framing of museums? As you walk in and around the museum pay close attention to architectural style and detail, the organization of interior space, and the objects displayed.

Readings:
Carol Duncan, “Art Museums and the Ritual of Citizenship,” in Exhibiting Cultures, ed. Ivan Karp and Steven Lavine.

Sample Assignment #2
Using One Exhibition to Think About Race

This article raises a simple question that is profoundly difficult to answer. Why on earth did people believe that Fusco and Gómez-Peña were undiscovered ‘Amerindians’ on display in cages in U.S. museums?

Readings:

Sample Assignment #3
Using One Museum to Teach about Nationalism

Go to the American Museum of Natural History website. Look at the interactive floor plan, the museum map, and the permanent exhibition links. Google images of the Theodore Roosevelt statue. Can you find any lingering evidence in any of these web images of Haraway’s arguments about the museum as a site for the construction of imperialist nationalism?

Reading: