

HIST 691: 001 Museum Studies

Spring 2022

Professor Spencer R. Crew

East Building Room 207B

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Class location: East Building Room 121

Time and Place: Tuesday 7:20 -10:00 PM

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the theory and practice of museums with an emphasis on history institutions. We will examine the origins of museums and the leaders who helped shape the field, history and memory, navigating controversy, the changing role of museums, museum learning, creating exhibitions, the future of museums, as well as museums and innovation are among the issues which will be covered. In the process the class will acquire an understanding of the numerous challenges facing museum professionals as well as the process of proposing, researching, and executing an exhibition planning grant.

Course Requirements: As a member of this class you are expected to attend class regularly, read assigned materials, actively participate in class discussions, lead one class discussion session, prepare assignments on time, write a two to three-page exhibition proposal, prepare a 10-page research paper based on the proposal, and write a NEH planning grant proposal to seek funding to create your exhibition.

Evaluation: Class attendance, preparation as a discussion facilitator, and contribution to class discussions (20%); proposal and research paper (35%); and exhibition grant proposal (45%). **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS DISCUSSED AND APPROVED IN ADVANCE.**

All plagiarism cases will be automatically submitted to GMU's honor committee. According to GMU's honor code, plagiarism includes the following:
1. Presenting as one's own words, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgement. **2.** Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Drop/Add deadlines:

Last Day to Add:	Monday, January 31
Last Day to Drop:	Monday, February 7
Selective Withdrawal Period:	February 15 – March 1

Texts:

Edward P. Alexander, *Museum Masters: Their Museums and Their Influence*

Busby, Muller, and Woolford *The Idea of a Human Rights Museum*

John Falk and Lynn Dierking, *The Museum Experience Revisited*

Beverly Serrell, *Exhibit Labels An Interpretative Approach*

Nina Simon, *The Participatory Museum*

Lonnie Bunch III, *A Fool's Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture*

National Endowment for the Humanities, <https://www.neh.gov/grants/public/public-humanities-projects>

Optional reading:

Mim Carlson and Tori O'Neal-McElrath, *Winning Grants Step by Step*

The articles for reading can be found on Jstor or on the course's blackboard page.

25 Jan. **Introduction – *Museum Masters: Their Museums and Their Influence***, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13

AAM Code of Ethics (blackboard)

From History Museum to History Attraction by Jessie Swagger, .
In "**History Is Bunk**": Assembling the Past at Henry Ford's
Greenfield Village (pp. 169-182). Amherst; Boston: University of
Massachusetts Press(2014) Retrieved from
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt5vk0x6.12> (blackboard)

1 Feb. **History and Memory**

“Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Memoire” by Pierre
Nora, *Representation* 26, (Spring 1989), 7-24; “Memory and
American History,” David Thelen, *The Journal of American History*,
Vol. 75, No 4 (March 1989) 1117-1129, “Public History and the
Study of Memory,” David Glassberg, *The Public Historian*, Vol. 18,
No. 2 (Spring 1996) 7-23; Jay Winter, “Sites of Memory,” Fordham
University(2010), Stable URL:
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1c999bq.25> (blackboard), Black,
Graham. (2011). Museums, Memory and History. *Cultural and
Social History*. 8. 415-427.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/275820607_Museums_Memory_and_History

8 Feb. **Roles and responsibilities of museums**

Essentialism, Adaptation and Justice: Towards a New Epistemology
of Museums” by Mark O’Neill, *Museum Management and
Curatorship* , 21 (2006) 95-116; “Contentiousness and shifting
knowledge paradigms: The roles of history and science museums in
contemporary societies,” Fiona Cameron, *Museum Management and
Curatorship* , 20 (2005) 213-233; “Excursions into the Remembered
Past: What People Want from Visits to Historical Sites” by Catherine

M. Cameron and John B. Gatewood, *The Public Historian*, Vol. 22, No. 3, (Summer 2000) 107-127; Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. "The museum as catalyst." *Museums 2000: Confirmation or Challenge* (2000): 55-66. (Blackboard); "Definition of the Museum through its Social Role," Karen Brown and Francois Mairesse (Blackboard)
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328569337_The_definition_of_the_museum_through_its_social_role

Why a Plan to Redefine the Meaning of 'Museum' Is Stirring Up Controversy <https://time.com/5670807/museums-definition-debate/>

15 Feb. **Museums and Controversy**

"Museums and Controversy : You Can't Have One without the Other" by Bryanna Leigh-Anne Marie O'Mara, M.A. (blackboard); https://baylor-ir.tdl.org/bitstream/handle/2104/5078/Bryanna_Omara_masters.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y ;

"A Brief History of Exhibition Controversy", Caitlin Stacy; Museum-Controversy Best-Practices-2019 (blackboard);

"Museums and Controversy: Some Introductory Reflections," Neil Harris, *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 82, No. 3 (Dec., 1995), pp. 1102-1110 ,URL:
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2945115>;

Shocking museum exhibitions: courting controversy or tackling important issues?
<https://blooloop.com/museum/in-depth/shocking-museum-exhibitions/>

History after the *Enola Gay* Controversy: An Introduction, [David Thelen](#), *Journal of American History*, Volume 82, Issue 3, December 1995, Pages 1029–1035, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2945110>

It Was a Year of turmoil. Here Are the 11 biggest Controversies that Rocked the art world 2019 <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/the-biggest-controversies-that-rocked-the-art-world-in-2019-1741554>

22 Feb. **Museums and Learning**

The Museum Experience Revisited

Selection of project topics (2 to 3-page proposal due)

1 March **Human Rights Museums**

The Idea of a Human Rights Museum

Look at the webpage for the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, <http://www.sitesofconscience.org>

8 March **Writing Museum Labels**

Exhibition Labels

15 March **Spring Break**

22 March **African American Museums into the 21st Century**

A Fool's Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture

What is the role of a Culturally specific Museum
<https://museumquestions.com/2017/09/11/what-is-the-job-of-a-culturally-specific-museum/>

29 March ***The Participatory Museum***

"VirtualTourist: Embracing Our Audience through Public History Web Experience," Anne Lindsay

The Public Historian, Vol. 35, No. 1 (February 2013), pp. 67-86 Published by:
University of California Press on behalf of the National Council on Public History

- 5 April ***Lincoln's Sanctuary***
- “Rethinking the Rembrandt Rule,” James Vaughn (blackboard)
- “Rethinking the Modern House Museum”
- <https://archive.curbed.com/2018/10/12/17967794/museum-home-wright-historic-preservation>
- “Lincoln's Refuge” <https://www.historynet.com/abraham-lincolns-refuge.htm>
- Visit Lincoln Cottage** in Washington, D.C
- 12 April Turn in research paper and individual discussions with the professor concerning exhibition grant proposals.
- (You may want to look through *Winning Grants Step by Step*)
- 19 April **Mission, Market, and Money**
- Some Observations on Financial Stability,” Elizabeth Merritt, in *Museum News September/October 2006*.; “New Ways of Experiencing Culture: the Role of Museums and Marketing Implications,” Neil Kotler, in *Museum Management and Curatorship*, (2001)19:4, 417-425; *Breaking Free: Museums Admission and New Audiences*, Emilie S. Arnold (blackboard); “History, tourism, and museum marketing ideas” (blackboard); “Five things Corporate Sponsors Want” (blackboard), 16 Creative Marketing Ideas to Attract Museum Visitors, <https://www.webfx.com/industries/tourism-hospitality/museums/marketing-ideas.html>
- 26 April Research and preparation of Grant NEH Proposal
- 3 May **Prepare completed draft of Grant Proposal for in class evaluation**

10 May

Final NEH Grant Proposal due