

History 480: Museum Practicum
“Best Practices” for Curators, Education
Specialists, Directors, and Managers
2:30-5 Monday, Hardin 233
Fall 2013

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Office Hours: 1-2:15 Monday, 11:30-12:30 Tuesday and by appointment

Objective: In this class you will learn some of the basic issues affecting museum curators and other museum professionals, and you will take the knowledge you learn into the public history realm as you work with museum professionals.

Requirements:

- THREE 4-5 page analytical papers based on the readings in the class.
- FIVE hours/week at the Pendleton Historic Foundation
- MUSEUM PLAN for the Oconee Heritage Center including a “branding concept,” sketch and accompanying narrative of permanent exhibition space, and volunteer management plan (GROUP PROJECT)
- Final exam based on the readings

Grading:

THIS IS NOT A PASS-FAIL CLASS! Your letter grade will be determined as follows:

Participation in class: 15% of grade (includes evaluations from your group about your project participation)

Analytical Papers: 20% of grade

Evaluation from site supervisor: 20% of grade

Museum Plan: 25%

Final Exam: 20%

59.5-below, F; 59.5-69.5, D; 69.5-79.5, C; 79.5-89.5, B; 89.5-100, A

All work is graded on a 100-point scale with the exception of analytical papers. Paper 1 is worth 25 points; Paper 2 is worth 35 points; Paper 3 is worth 40 points.

ABSENCE POLICY: You have one class to miss for any reason. I do not want to see doctor’s notes, etc. to “excuse” your absence—what you do with your one allowable absence is your business. If you have a prolonged illness, you should consider a medical withdrawal from this course, as it will be impossible to keep up if you are not here. Your one absence will affect your participation grade, because you will not be involved in class discussion.

A Note on Academic Integrity: As the provost has announced: “As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson’s vision of this institution as a ‘high seminary of learning.’ Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.”

- All ideas or direct quotations taken from another work must be fully cited; failure to do so constitutes a case of plagiarism.
- All papers that you turn in must be your own work. That means that you may not copy from someone else or download papers or information off of the internet. This, too, is plagiarism and cheating.
- Cheating on exams will not be tolerated. When you use sources on your exams, you must cite them.
- If you choose to plagiarize or cheat on an assignment, I will report you to the judicial board and if you are found responsible, you will fail the course.

Although I have not assigned quizzes and weekly in-class writing assignments, I reserve the right to do so if I believe that you are not doing the readings.

Cell Phone Policy: Turn them off before you get into class. They are disruptive! If you receive a phone call during class, I will ask you to leave and you will receive an absence for the day.

Required Books:

Anna Johnson et. al., *The Museum Educator’s Manual*
Amy Levin, *Defining Memory*
Barry Lord and Gail Dexter Lord, *The Manual of Museum Exhibitions*
Margot Wallace, *Museum Branding*

All books will be available at the bookstore.

Course Schedule:

8/26: Challenges Facing Museums in the New Century

- Discussion of your experiences in internships, plan for the class, the PHF

9/2: Everything Works Great for the Big Museums, Right? The Challenge for Local Museums

- Amy Levin, ALL OF *Defining Memory*

9/9: In-Service Week

9/16: Museum Exhibition—Theory and Planning

- Barry and Gail Lord, *The Manual of Museum Exhibitions*, 1-66, 259-425

9/23: In-Service Week

9/30: Museum Exhibition—“Hard Core” (Literally the nuts and bolts of it all)

- Lord, *The Manual of Museum Exhibitions*, 67-257, 425-465

10/7: Making a Statement With Your Museum

- Margot Wallace, *ALL OF Museum Branding*

10/14: Fall Break

10/21: Education, Volunteers, and Other Management Issues

- All of *The Museum Educator's Manual*

10/21: Brainstorm Session: Drafting the plan

11/4: Draft Due of Museum Plan: Meet to Discuss (PLEASE SEND ME THE DRAFT BY 12 PM ON THE 4th SO I HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO REVIEW IT PRIOR TO CLASS)

11/11: WORK ON THE FINAL DRAFT!!!!!!

11/18: PRESENTATION OF MUSEUM PLAN TO DIRECTOR, STAFF, AND BOARD MEMBERS AT PHF, 5:30 PM (FINAL PLAN DUE TODAY)

11/25: In-Service Week

12/2: Discuss final, peer evaluations due today

FINAL EXAM DUE at 9:30 PM on 12/12!!!!!!