

History 4140--001: Introduction to the Study of History Museums

Fall 2016

2:00-4:45 Thursday in Hardin 024

Dr. Megan Taylor Shockley

Office hours: 1:30-2:30 Wednesday, 1-2 Thursday and by appointment in Hardin 104

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Course Description: An introduction to the field of museology, covering the history, philosophy, and ethics of the profession; various types of museums, and different aspects of museum work; the museum's role in the community; and the effects of philanthropy and government on museums.

Course Objective: In this class, you will learn about the various ways in which museums present history to public audiences. You will understand the problems facing museum curators and educators, and you will discuss dilemmas of authenticity, funding, and ethics in the construction of museum exhibits. In addition, you will learn about the tools and methodologies that make history tangible. You will experience museum problems and solutions first-hand as you tour museums, and you will present your own research analyzing how public history venues interpret academic history for the public.

Course Requirements: Course assignments consist of 4 exhibit reviews, several unannounced quizzes, 1 research paper, and a final exam. In addition, you will lead class discussion twice, and that will count toward your participation grade. Project requirements are listed fully on the blackboard website. To access the blackboard, enter <http://bb.clemson.edu> on any internet search engine, and follow login instructions.

Grading:

Exhibit Reviews: 25%

Quizzes: 10%

Research Paper: 20%

Participation: 10%

Final 35%

Most grading will be done on a 100-point scale: 89.5-100=A; 79.5-89.4=B; 69.5-79.4=C; 59.5-69.4=D; 59-below=F.

Exhibit reviews will be worth 25 points each.

Participation and Attendance:

You cannot be a passive student in this course and learn; this course requires you to do class readings by the date assigned and be prepared to discuss them in class. In order for you to be a successful participant, you must attend class regularly. If you miss TWO classes, you will drop one full letter grade; if you miss 25% or more of the course, you will fail the course. For every class missed after the second class will drop your final grade four points. Every absence in the class will affect your participation grade, as you are not with us discussing the course material.

You have one class 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 with the field trip schedule if you are not here.

Attendance at museum exhibits is mandatory, and if you are late to or miss a museum visit, you will receive a zero on that museum review.

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.

Additional Course Requirements: Although most museums are non-profit, many are facing budget crises with the restriction of federal and state funds. Therefore, museums cannot fund education programs without our help. The fees are:

Museum of the Upcountry: \$5.00

Agricultural Museum: \$5.00 (suggested donation)

Oconee Heritage Center: \$5.00 (suggested donation)

Total: **\$15.00**

Additional Information:

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Students requesting accommodations should make an appointment with Dr. Margaret Camp (656-6848), Director of Disability Services, to discuss specific needs within the first month of classes. Students should present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Student Disability Services when they meet with instructors. Accommodations are not retroactive and new Faculty Accommodation Letters must be presented each semester.

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid.

This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy is located at <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/title-ix/>. Mr. Jerry Knighton is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator. He also is the Director of Access and Equity. His office is located at 110 Holtzendorff Hall, 864.656.3184 (voice) or 864.565.0899 (TDD).

Required Texts: Texts are available at the bookstore.

Conn, Steven. *Do Museums Still Need Objects?*

Dubin, Steven, *Displays of Power.*

Falk and Dierking, *The Museum Experience Revisited.*

Horton, James O. and Lois, eds., *Slavery and Public History.*

All other readings are available in the PDF RESERVE, available through blackboard.

8/18: Introduction to the Course

8/25: Where Have Museums Been? Where Are They Going?

- Conn, *Do Museums Still Need Objects?* Introduction and Chapter 1, Chapters 5-6

9/1: Western Museums and the Politics of Display

- Steven Conn, *Do Museums Still Need Objects?* Chapters 2-3
- Jules David Prown, “The Truth of Material Culture,” in *History from Things* PDF RESERVE
- “The Unstifled Muse,” in *Exhibiting Dilemmas*, PDF RESERVE

9/8: Politics of Public History—Nothing New Under the Sun

- Dubin, Chapters 1-3, 5-7

9/15: Authenticity and Artifacts: Education in the Modern Museum

- Spencer Crew and James Sims, “Locating Authenticity: Fragments of a Dialogue,” in *Exhibiting Cultures*, Ivan Karp and Steven Lavine, eds. PDF RESERVE
- Elaine Gurian, “Noodling Around with Exhibition Opportunities,” in *Exhibiting Cultures* PDF RESERVE
- Richard Handler and Eric Gable, “Just the Facts,” in *New History in an Old Museum*, PDF RESERVE

9/22: UPCOUNTRY MUSEUM TRIP: MEET AT 3:00

9/29: Museum Populations: Focus on Inclusion

- Steven Conn, Chapter 4
- “Partner or Pariah?” PDF RESERVE

EXHIBIT REVIEW DUE TODAY!!!!

10/6: Ethics, History, and the Display of Slavery

- Hortons, eds., *Slavery and Public History*, Intro and chapters 1-6
- **AT SOME POINT THIS WEEK, TAKE A TOUR OF FORT HILL!!!!**

10/13: House Museums and the Display of Slavery

- *Slavery and Public History*, complete the book
- **Exhibit Review of Fort Hill Due Today**

10/20: Visit SC Agricultural Museum

10/27: Learning from Museums

- Falk and Dierking—ALL

EXHIBIT REVIEW DUE TODAY!!!

11/3: FREE WEEK—VISIT YOUR PROJECT-BASED MUSEUM

11/10: VISIT THE OCONEE HERITAGE CENTER—MEET AT 3 PM

11/17: Living History

- Warren Leon and Margaret Piatt, “Living History Museums,” in *History Museums in the United States: A Critical Assessment*, PDF RESERVE
- View and discuss Plimoth Plantation videos

EXHIBIT REVIEW DUE TODAY!!!!

11/24: Thanksgiving

12/1: Discussion of final projects

FINAL PROJECTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON 12/3!!!!

FINAL EXAM IS DUE IN DIGITAL DROPBOX ON 12/8 at 10:30 am.

