

Course Syllabus
Fall 2009/Spring 2010

Instructor: Marta Reid Stewart
Course: Introduction to Museum Studies
Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Description

The Introduction to Museum Studies course is a requirement for graduation. The focus of the course is an overview of the theory and practices in museums as they relate to the professional work that takes place in museums.

Content Standards:

History of Museums
Accepted Definitions of Museums
Creating a “Dream” Museum
Writing a mission statement and collections management policy, budgets
Proposal writing, interviewing skills
The role of the museum professionals: director, curator, designer, conservator, registrar, museum educator, installation team

Course Outline

In general the senior high Introduction to Museum Studies course is a survey of the Washington area museums experienced not only in the classroom but in the field as students participate in hands-on activities. Travel to locations beyond the Washington, DC allow students to gain insight of museum practices worldwide and help foster practices of teamwork, a necessary attribute in museum work.

I Introduction to Museum Studies

A. Demonstrate an understanding of the organizational structure of a museum. Develop budget for students’ “Dream Museum”. Write a resume for a museum position and participate in a mock interview.

B. Use research and interviewing skills to collect information about jobs and role functions of museum professionals

II What is a museum?

A. Discuss the definitions of museums according to the American Association of Museums, International Community of Museums, National Association of Exhibit Designers. Write your own.

B. Analyze the various types of museums: art, science, history

III Functions of a museum

A. Required to demonstrate knowledge of the work performed in museums such as collection, conservation, education, registration, exhibition

B. Explain why each function is necessary for a museum to successfully exist.

Review dynamic objects from collections around the world.

IV Accessibility Laws as they influence the museum's physical structure and exhibition development

A. Evaluate the effectiveness of the current accessibility laws. Discuss the American Disability Act.

B. Identify buildings that have and have not complied. Review collections as they impact architectural structures

V Museum Ethics

A. Debate the ethical practices of various museums and the professionals who run them

B. Explain the rationale for the code of ethics for museums. Discuss museum ethics as they apply to the functions of a museum

Materials:

Introduction To Museum Work. G.Ellis Burcaw.Videos,Periodicals, Selected Articles from American Association of Museums Publications

Course Requirements

1. Attendance is required. Any absences must be supported by a note from the student's parent or guardian. Five unexcused absences may result in failure.
2. Arriving on time for class is mandatory.
3. Students must take all tests and quizzes.
- 4.Students must complete a course long cooperative or individual project that integrates the skills learned.
5. Students must keep a notebook and portfolio.

GRADING

Attendance/Decorum	10 %
Classwork/Participation	30 %
Homework	30 %
Quizzes/Tests	30%