

# **MUSEUM STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **INTRODUCTION TO MUSEUM STUDIES**

INSTRUCTOR: MS. STEWART

PERIOD: 7

SCHOOL YEAR: FALL 2019/ SPRING 2020

CREDITS: 1

## **INTRODUCTION TO MUSEUM STUDIES**

### **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 in museums. 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.

### **CONTENT STANDARDS**

- Accepted Definitions of Museums-American Association of Museums, International Council of Museums, National Association of Exhibit Designers Functions of museums
- Museum roles: Why museums?
- The role of the museum professionals, includes, but not limited to: director, curator, designer, conservator, registrar, museum educator, fabricator, media expert, developer, lawyer, photographer /Organizational chart
- Types of museums and history, becoming the expert
- Museum Statistics Museum Ethics and Code of Conduct
- The Market and Marketing Current trends in Museums
- Creating a “Dream” Museum — Concept, proposal writing, mission statement, collections management policy, budget.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. 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.
  - B. Development of a working definition.
- II. Role of Museums*
  - A. Why do museums exist ? B. Cultural and social impact
- III. Introduction to Museum Studies*
  - A. Demonstrate an understanding of the organizational structure of a museum.

- B. Survey of requirements for museum positions.
- C. Use research and interviewing skills to collect information about jobs and role functions of museum professionals. Meet the professionals
- IV. *Functions of a museum*
  - A. Required to demonstrate knowledge of the work performed in museums such as collection, conservation, registration, education,, exhibition
  - B. Explain why each function is necessary for a museum to successfully exist.
- V. *Types of museums and history*
  - A. Identify the kinds of museums
  - B. View selected objects from around the world.
  - C. Local site visits.
- VI. *Museum Statistics*
  - A. Survey of museums, objects, visitation
  - B. Implications of the numbers
- VII. *Museum Ethics and Code of Conduct*
  - 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.
- VIII. *The Market and Marketing*
  - A. Identifying and strategizing
  - B. Audience development plan
- IX. *Museum trends*
  - A. Public curation
  - B. Broadening the constituency base
- X. *Dream Museum*
  - A. Examine impact of collection on the structure of the building. Proposal writing. Discuss accessibility laws as they influence the physical structure of a museum.
  - B. Build the “dream” museum.

## **MATERIALS**

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

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **GENERAL RULES**

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 a dropped letter grade.
2. Arriving on time for class is mandatory.
3. Students must take all tests and quizzes.
4. Students must complete all assignments on time. Students are responsible for coming to the teacher for missed work.
5. Students must keep a notebook.
6. Students may use mobile phones for educational purposes only.
7. Students are not permitted to sleep or have headphones in ears during class time

### **GRADING POLICY**

### **(Grade percentage per quarter)**

<b>Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listening</li><li>• Speaking</li><li>• Effort</li></ul>	
<b>Practice and Application</b>	<b>50%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Classwork/Homework</li><li>• Writing assignments</li><li>• Projects</li><li>• Field trips</li></ul>	
<b>Assessments</b>	<b>40%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quizzes</li><li>• Unit Tests</li><li>• Presentations</li></ul>	

***NOTE: 5 unexcused absences results in the automatic drop in one letter grade, ten unexcused absences in one advisory results in a grade of FA, & 30 absences in a year is an automatic F for the course.***

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

- martareidstewart@gmail.com
- Aspen

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Parent /Guardian Signature

Date

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Student Signature

Date