

## **MUSEUM STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

#### **MUSEUM EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

INSTRUCTOR: MS. STEWART

PERIOD: 9

SCHOOL YEAR: FALL 2019 / SPRING 2020

CREDITS: 1

## **MUSEUM EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The focus of this course is an overview of the educational responsibilities of the museum and the role of the museum educator. Students will also have opportunities to put theory into practice through the development of educational tools and activities that are used in a museum setting. The course is designed for Museum Studies juniors to use the exhibitions they produce and exhibitions in selected museums in the DC area as a source of inspiration to develop interactive tours, self-guided tours, and teaching packets. Student responsibilities extends to the organization, scheduling, and overseeing of workshops for selected groups.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Understand the roles, training, skills, knowledge, opportunities, and requirements of museum educators.
- Identify how the different skill and knowledge areas of museum education can be applied to appropriate projects and programs in other areas of the museum profession.
- Prepare different educational programs for a variety of audiences
- Create an evaluation tool for educational programs.

### **CONTENT STANDARDS**

Public responsibility of museums

Skills of museum educators

Museum Educational interpretative tours/visual literacy

Development of museum lesson plans

Gallery and Classroom Teaching Presentations

Object-based learning/Storytelling as teaching tool

Evaluation to improve educational programs

Education theorists and learning styles

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

Definition of museum education and the role of the museum educator within the museum

- ❖ History of museums and museum education
  - Discuss museum's public responsibility/mission
- ❖ Practice skills of a museum educator
  - What does an effective educator look like?
- ❖ Review the functions of a museum education department
  - Art

- History
- Science
- Zoos
- ❖ Object-based learning
  - 5 Minute Object Facilitation

#### The Museum Visitor

- ❖ Analyze statistics on museum visitation
- ❖ Identify the museum audience/constituency, and develop appropriate programs for identified audience
- ❖ Types of learners
- ❖ Explore various methods broadening your audience base

#### Cannon of Theorists in Education/Learning

- ❖ Lev Vygotsky—Sociocultural Influence
- ❖ Jean Piaget—Schemas & Constructivism
- ❖ B. F. Skinner—Behaviorism
- ❖ Benjamin Bloom—Bloom’s Taxonomy
- ❖ Howard Gardner—Nine Intelligences
- ❖ Theorist Project

#### Museum as a Learning Environment

- ❖ Develop lesson plan for interactive tour. Consider types of learners
- ❖ Conduct an object lesson placing the object in a historical and/or cultural context
- ❖ Apply learning theories and styles to the development of museum lessons

#### Evaluation

- ❖ Create an evaluation instrument
- ❖ Collect data
- ❖ Analyze data and write evaluation report

## **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)**

### **Participation**

**10%**

- Listening
- Speaking
- Effort

### **Practice and Application**

**50%**

- Classwork/Homework
- Writing assignments
- Projects
- Field trips

### **Assessments**

**40%**

- Quizzes
- Unit Tests
- Presentations

***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](mailto:martareidstewart@gmail.com)
- Aspen

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Parent /Guardian Signature

Date

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Student Signature

Date