

## ARH 4941 Museum Studies Internship

### Final Project Guidelines

The academic requirement of your internship will compel you to critically self-reflect upon the kinds of museum philosophies, departments, and vocational practices you are most interested in. Museum practice is broadly divided into three basic philosophies and then subdivided into museum departments and more specific kinds of vocational practice. Choose one of the categories to address in a critical essay and informed by your internship experience this fall.

You are to produce a critical essay of 2500 words in which you critique some aspect of museum practice based on your experiences as an intern this fall and in relation to one of the following categories. The essay should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font with standard margins, and include bibliography and endnotes.

Once you decide which category of museum practice that you would like to address, then consult the relevant sources as listed below. You must have **at least five sources in your bibliography and endnotes**. Furthermore, you must actively engage these sources, attempting to situate your experience of museum practice within the larger, academic discussion about museums.

#### Internship Categories:

1. OBJECT: Museum practice that focuses on collecting, curating, researching, and designing exhibitions could be considered an “object”-based approach to museums. This type of museum practice both requires an in-depth knowledge of materials and their proper care as well as the use of data management software to organize collections and their research.

- Collections care and management (Registrar)
- Curatorial research and practice
- Exhibition-making: development, design, and installation
- Conservation and preservation

2. PUBLIC: Museum practice encompasses much more than acquiring, researching, and arranging objects. In this second category, we consider the interpretation of objects and educational programming. Increasingly, a museum’s educative function involves a virtual dissemination of knowledge. This type of museum practice involves research on objects and exhibitions to develop tours and informational literature for the public. Further, educational philosophies are often employed to properly craft tours and activities that are age and group appropriate. This practice emphasizes the dissemination of knowledge through engagement with the public.

- Interpretation and audience (Education and Visitor Services)
- Online and onsite engagement (Web and social media presence, and onsite interpretative technologies)

3. INSTITUTION: For a museum to efficiently operate, an effective administrative infrastructure is needed. Administrative staff positions attend to public relations, grant writing, program development, and general directorship. This practice relies heavily on corporate frameworks to advocate for the continued financial and social support of the institution.

- Directorship
- Development
- Marketing
- Finance
- Legal
- Other administration (Public Relations)
- Non-profit arts organizations (groups such as COCA that disseminate funding for the arts and promote cultural programming)

#### Guide to the sources

The following is designed to provide you with a guide to the most relevant sources for your project. First, you will find a list of general sources that are relevant to all potential museum projects. Secondly, sources are listed as required readings for particular subcategories.

#### GENERAL

- Alexander, Edward and Mary Alexander. *Museums in Motion: An Introduction to the History and Functions of Museums*. Second edition. New York: Altamira Press, 2008.
- Skramstad, Harold. "An Agenda for Museums in the Twenty-First Century," in *Reinventing the Museum: The Evolving Conversation on the Paradigm Shift*, edited by Gail Anderson, 118 - 132. New York: Altamira Press, 2004.
- *Museum Basics*, 3rd edition, edited by Timothy Ambrose and Crispin Paine. New York: Routledge, 2012.
- Bennett, Tony. *The Birth of the Museum: History, Theory, Politics*. New York: Routledge, 1995.

#### 1. OBJECT:

- Buck, Rebecca and Jean Allman Gilmore, eds. *The New Museum Registration Methods*. Washington: American Association of Museums, 1998.

- Case, Mary. "What Registrars Do All Day." In *Registrars on Record: Essay on Museum Collections Management*, 13- 33. Edited by Mary Case. Washington: American Association of Museums, 1995.
- Dunn, Richard. "The Future of Collecting: Lessons from the Past." In *Museums and the Future of Collecting*, 62-71. Edited by Simon J. Knell. 2nd ed. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2004. Simmons, John. "Managing Things—Crafting a Collections Policy." *Museum News*. January/February 2004.
- Glaser, Mary Todd. "Caring for Your Documents and Art on Paper." Washington: American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, 2003.
- Schmiegel, Karol A. "Managing Collections Information." In *Registrars on Record: Essay on Museum Collections Management*, 47-56. Edited by Mary Case. Washington: American Association of Museums, 1995.
- Lord, Barry and Gail Lord, eds. *Manual of Museum Exhibitions*. Altamira Press, 2001.
- Bennett, Tony. "The Exhibitionary Complex," *New Formations* no. 4 (Spring 1988)
- Burcaw, G. Ellis, "Chapter 3. Designing Exhibitions," *An Introduction to Museum Work*, pp 32-66, 1997.
- Dernie, David, *Exhibition Design*, 2006.
- Heumann Gurian, Elaine, *Reinventing the Museum*, "Chapter 22: What is the Object of This Exercise? A Meandering Exploration of the Many Meanings of Objects in Museums," pp. 269-283.
- Peterson, Brian H. "In the Beginning (and the End) is the Word: Best Practices in Museum Exhibition Writing." Technical leaflet from the Market Place of Ideas, American Association of Museums Annual Meeting, 2004.
- Storr, Robert, "Show and Tell," pp. 14-31 in *What Makes A Great Exhibition?: Questions of Practice*, 2006.

## 2. PUBLIC:

- "Building the Future of Education: Museums and the Learning Ecosystem," Center for the Future of Museums and American Alliance of Museums, 2014
- Crane, Susan. "Memory, Distortion, and History in the Museum," *History and Theory* 36, no. 4 (December 1997)
- Liss, Andrea. "The Identity Card Project and the Tower of Faces at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum," in *Grasping the World: The Idea of the Museum*, edited by Donal Preziosi, Claire Farago, et al. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Pub., 2004
- McLean, Kathleen. "Museum Exhibitions and the Dynamics of Dialogue," *Reinventing the Museum*, pp. 193-211.
- New Media Consortium (NMC). "The Horizon Report: Higher Education Edition," 2014. <http://www.nmc.org/publications/2014-horizon-report-higher-ed>.
- Roberts, Lisa C. "Changing Practices of Interpretation," *Reinventing the Museum*
- Barry A. (2006). *Creating A Virtuous Circle Between A Museum's On-line And Physical Spaces*, in J. Trant and D. Bearman (eds.). *Museums and the Web 2006: Proceedings*, Toronto: Archives & Museum

Informatics.<http://www.archimuse.com/mw2006/papers/barry/barry.html> (Links to an external site.)

- Russo, A. and D. Peacock. 2009. Great expectations: Sustaining participation in social media spaces. In *Museums and the Web 2009 Proceedings*, ed. D. Bearman and J. Trant. Toronto: Archives & Museum Informatics.<http://www.archimuse.com/mw2009/papers/russo/russo.html>
- Simon, N. (2010). Co-creating with visitors. In N. Simon, *The Participatory Museum*. Retrieved from *Participatory Museum* <http://www.participatorymuseum.org/chapter8/>
- Terras, M. (2011). The digital wunderkammer: Flickr as a platform for amateur cultural and heritage content. *Library Trends*, 59(4), 686-706. Retrieved from Project MUSE [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/library\\_trends/v059/59.4.terras.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/library_trends/v059/59.4.terras.html)
- Peacock, D. (2008). Making ways for change: Museums, disruptive technologies, and organizational change. *Museum Management and Curatorship*, 23(4), 333-351. doi:10.1080/09647770802517324. [FSU Subscription:<http://www.tandfonline.com.proxy.lib.fsu.edu/doi/pdf/10.1080/09647770802517324>

### 3. INSTITUTION:

- Boyd, Willard L. "Museum Accountability: Laws, Rules, Ethics, and Accreditation," in *Reinventing the Museum*
- Malaro, Marie C. "Deaccessioning: The American Perspective," *Reinventing the Museum*
- Rand, Judy, *Reinventing the Museum*, Chapter 13: The Visitors' Bill of Rights, pp. 158-159.
- Sullivan, Robert. "Evaluating the Ethics and Consciences of Museums," in *Reinventing the Museum*
- Ames, Michael. "Museums in the Age of Deconstruction," *Reinventing the Museum*
- Berlo, Janet and Ruth Phillips, "Our [Museum] World Turned Upside Down: Representing Native American Arts," in *Grasping the World: The Idea of the Museum*, ed. by Donald Preziosi and Claire Farago, Ashgate: Burlington, VT, 2004, pp. 708-715.
- Monroe, Dan and Walter Echo-Hawk, "Deft Deliberations," *Reinventing the Museum*
- Tan, Leon. "Museums and Cultural Memory in an Age of Networks," *Intl. J. of Cultural Studies*, Oct. 2012, pp. 1-17.