

HIS 629

Museum Education

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Course Description:

This course surveys the principles and practices of museum education. Emphasizing facilitated experiences, it explores the kinds of learning that occur in museums and how educational programming can engage diverse audiences.

Student Learning Outcomes

The course will also teach students skills and techniques utilized by museum educators. Students will be able to:

1. Define learning theories as they apply to museum learning environments
2. Design program activities to meet learning goals and objectives
3. Devise strategies for engaging museum visitors in inquiry-based discussion and activities
4. Create a personal museum education philosophy
5. Evaluate audience needs and potential responses to them
6. Evaluate museum education programs in terms of best practices
7. Explain ideas clearly and persuasively through written and verbal communication

Grading:

15% - Homework assignments: Students will be asked to observe and gather information about three education programs at area museums and applications of technology in museum programs over the course of the semester and turn in observations. Students will also be asked to compile a fact sheet about a professional organization or resource for museum educators for class discussion. (*Learning Outcomes 6, 7*)

30 % - Class participation: Attendance, participation during in-class exercises, and leading class discussion of assigned readings (*Learning Outcomes 1, 3, 7*)

30% - Projects: Students will develop two programs to be implemented at the High Point Museum. Details about the program parameters and project requirements will be provided by the instructor in class. (*Learning Outcomes 2, 3, 5*)

25% - 10 page essay describing your personal museum education philosophy; it should be thoughtful and reflective, drawing on readings, research, and class discussions from the entire semester. (*Learning Outcomes 4, 7*)

Grading scale

A=93-100; A-=90-92; B+=87-89; B=83-86; B-: 80-82; C+=77-79; C=73-76

Grading Rubric

15	Homework Assignments	
	Program Observations = 3 pts. each	9
	Technology Review = 3 pts.	3
	Professional Org. Fact Sheet = 3 pts.	3

30	Class Participation	
	Attendance = 1 pt./class	14
	Participation in discussion = 1 pt./class	14
	Leading class discussion = 2 pts.	2
30	Projects	30
25	Personal Museum Education Philosophy	25
100	Total Possible Points	100

Required Reading:

Johnson, Anna, et. al. *The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques*. Altamira Press, 2009.

Articles are available through electronic reserve

Class Discussions

Class discussions are an opportunity to share your reactions and thoughts on assigned readings and consider the insights of your classmates to develop a deeper understanding of the material. Discussions should thoroughly explore, examine and debate the ideas found in the passages. For this reason discussion leaders *are not permitted to use class activities*, as they tend to distract from the actual readings and lead to uneven or superficial review of the assigned content. However, leaders may choose to present a hypothetical scenario for classmates to discuss in order consider practical implications of ideas presented in the reading material. Additionally, leading class discussions is an opportunity to practice open-ended questioning techniques you will use in your work as a museum educator. Generally class discussions should, at a minimum:

- Define key terms or concepts
- Identify key arguments in assigned passages
- Evaluate merit of key arguments based on evidence provided and personal experiences
- Examine how assigned readings relate to each other
- Consider how material relates to readings from previous weeks
- Compare and contrast key points from different readings
- Consider benefits, challenges, and potential results of implementing key ideas

Academic Integrity Policy

All students have a responsibility to uphold the standards of “*Honesty, Trust, Fairness, Respect, and Responsibility*” detailed in the Academic Integrity Policy. Instances of cheating, plagiarism, misuse of academic resources, falsification of information, and facilitating of academic dishonesty are treated with utmost seriousness by the history department and dealt with severely by the University administration. The full policy appears in the *Student Calendar/Handbook* and at academicintegrity.uncg.edu.

Per university policy, you will be asked to sign a copy of the Academic Integrity Pledge for each major assignment in this class.

Attendance Policy:

Consistent attendance is a central and fundamental expectation for participation in the seminar.

Special Needs

If you require accommodations for special learning needs, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Disability Services, located within the Elliot University Center (334-5770)—and please let me know!

Course Schedule & Assignment Due Dates:

August 23: Introduction & Course Overview

Defining Museum Education

August 30: How People Learn / Education and Learning Theory

Hein, George A. and Mary Alexander. *Museums: Places of Learning*. Education Committee, American Association of Museums, Washington D.C., 1998. pp. 29-46.

Falk, John H. and Lynn D. Dierking. *Lessons Without Limit: How Free Choice Learning is Transforming Education*. Altamira Press, 2002., pp. 9-18, 33-59.

Fortney, Kim and Beverly Sheppard, eds. *An Alliance of Spirit: Museum & School Partnerships*. American Association of Museums, 2010. Chapter 4 (pp.23-30)

Shaffer, Sharon E. *Engaging Young children in Museums*. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA, 2015. pp. 46-68.

Nelson, Keri Ross. "Application of Merrill's First Principles of Instruction in a Museum Education Context." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 40, Number 3, October 2015, pp. 304-314.

<http://www.funderstanding.com/educators/theory-of-multiple-intelligences/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2013/10/16/howard-gardner-multiple-intelligences-are-not-learning-styles/>

www.funderstanding.com (good resources for brief overviews & explanations of various learning theories)

September 6: Program Design & Evaluation

Johnson, Anna, et. al. *The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques*. Altamira Press, 2009, pp. 95-108, 117-127.

Alleyne, Shirley Brown. "Making Programs Self-Sustaining at a Small Historic House Museum." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 35, Number 2, Summer 2010, pp. 201-205.

Adams, Marianna. "Museum Evaluation: Where Have We Been? What Has Changed? And Where Do We Need to Go Next?" *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 37, No. 2, Summer 2012, pp. 25-36.

[http://gov.wales/topics/cultureandsport/museums-archives-](http://gov.wales/topics/cultureandsport/museums-archives-libraries/resources/inspiringlearning/?lang=en)

[libraries/resources/inspiringlearning/?lang=en](http://gov.wales/topics/cultureandsport/museums-archives-libraries/resources/inspiringlearning/?lang=en) - become familiar with the Generic Learning Outcomes & the Generic Social Outcomes; more description in the PDF documents linked at the bottom of the webpage

<http://www.shapingoutcomes.org/course/index.htm> Complete online course: Modules A-E *This will take several hours. It is recommended that you plan to do one to two modules a day.

September 13: Museum Audiences: Youth & Family

Johnson, Anna, et. al. *The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques*. Altamira Press, 2009, pp. 75-86.

Pattinson, Scott A. and Lynn D. Dierking. "Exploring Staff Facilitation that Supports Family Learning." *Journal of Museum Education*. Volume 37, Number 3, Fall, 2012, pp. 69-80

Wilkening, Susie. "Mother Lode: Five Ultra Moms and Why You Want Them to Visit Your Museum." *Museum*, Jan/Feb (2011): 32-38.

Herman, Alicia. "Bringing New Families to the Museum One Baby at a Time." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 37, No. 2, Summer 2012, pp. 79-88.

Vukelich, Ronald. "Time Language for Interpreting History Collections to Children." *Museum Studies Journal*, Fall (1984): 43-50.

Bowers, Betsy. "A Look at Early Childhood Programming in Museums." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 37., No. 1, Spring 2012, pp.39-48.

Kusuma, Krista Dahl and Gabrielle Wyrick. "Real Teens, Real Tours: Teen Engagement Strategies for the One-Time Visit." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 39, No. 3, October 2014, pp. 276-283.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2013/11/01/the-early-language-gap-is-about-more-than-words/>

Additional Resource (not required reading): www.familylearningforum.org

September 20: Learning to Look

Levy, Barbara Abramoff, et. al. *Great Tours!: Thematic Tours and Guide Training for Historic Sites*. Altamira Press, 2001, pp. 71-76.

Williams, Ray. "Honoring the Personal Response: A Strategy for Serving the Public Hunger for Connection." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 35, Number 1, Spring 2010, pp. 93-101.

Wolberg, Rochelle Ibanez and Allison Goff. "Thinking Routines: Replicating Classroom Practices within Museum Settings." *Journal of Museum Education* Vol. 37, No. 2, Spring 2012, pp. 59-68.

Yenawine, Philip. *Visual Thinking Strategies: Using Art to Deepen Learning Across School Disciplines*. Harvard Education Press, 2013, pp. 15-38.

Wood, Elizabeth and Kiersten F. Latham. *The Objects of Experience: Transforming Visitor-Object Encounters in Museums*. Left Coast Press, 2014, pp. 24-71.

http://www.vtshome.org/system/resources/0000/0039/VTS_Understanding_the_basic.pdf

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/feb08/vol65/num05/The-Object-of-Their-Attention.aspx>

***"A is for Artifact" Project Due

September 27: Facilitating Tours and Other Interpretive Experiences

Brochu, Lisa and Tim Merriman. *Personal Interpretation: Connecting Your Audience to Heritage Resources*. InterpPress, 2008, pp. 23-63

Oleniczak, Jen. "Improvising Your Teaching Skills." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 41, No.1, March 2016, pp. 38-45.

Wands, Scott, Erica Donniss, and Susie Wilkening. "Do Guided Tours and Technology Drive Visitors Away?" *History News*, Spring 2010, pp. 21-25.

Kelleher, Tom. "Living Things Grow and Evolve: The Evolution and Expansion of Living History." *ALHFAM Bulletin*, Fall 2009, pp. 10-15.

<http://artmuseumteaching.com/2013/12/17/power-of-conversation/?blogsub=confirming>

Class Activity: Opening Doors DVD and accompanying group activities

***Guided Tour Program Observation Due

October 1 (Saturday): High Point Museum – Observe Gallery Cart in Action

October 4: Museum Audiences: Adults & Seniors

McCray, Kimberly H. "Gallery Educators as Adult Learners: The Active Application of Adult Learning Theory." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 41, No. 1, March, 2016, pp. 10-21.

Taylor, Edward W. and Amanda C. Neill. "Museum Education: A Nonformal Education Perspective." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 33, No. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 23-32.

Trainer, Laureen, Marley Steele-Inama, and Amber Christopher. "Uncovering Visitor Identity: A Citywide Utilization of the Falk Visitor-Identity Model." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 37, Number 1, Spring, 2012, pp. 101-113.

Robinson, Cynthia. "Into the Future: Adult Professional Groups and the 21st Century Museum." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 36, No. 1, Spring 2011, pp. 103-112.

Smith, Andrea Livi. "Neither a Toddler Nor a Stick-in-the-Mud." *Journal of Museum Education*. Vol. 36, No. 2, Summer 2011, pp. 165-170.

***Family Program (High Point Museum Gallery Cart) Observation Due

October 11: NO CLASS – work on project

October 18: Fall Break (No Class)

October 25: Community Partnerships & Collaborations

Johnson, Anna, et. al. *The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques*. Altamira Press, 2009, pp. 87-94, 151-158.

Sheppard, Beverly. "Meaningful Collaboration." From *In Principle, In Practice: Museums as Learning Institutions*. Edited by John H. Falk, Lynn Dierking, Susan Foutz, Altamira Press, 2007, pp. 181-194.

Scott, Carol. "Museums, the Public and Public Value." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 35, Number 1, Spring 2010, pp. 33-42.

Long, Stephen. "Practicing Civic Engagement: Making your Museum into a Community Living Room." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 38, Number 2, July 2013, pp. 141-153.

O'Neill, Brian. "Twenty-One Partnership Success Factors." *History News*, Autumn 2014, pp. 17-21.

***Gallery Cart Project Draft Due

November 1: Museum & School Partnerships

Fortney, Kim and Beverly Sheppard, eds. *An Alliance of Spirit: Museum & School Partnerships*. American Association of Museums, 2010, pp. 1-14, 31-50.

Johnson, Anna, et. al. *The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques*. Altamira Press, 2009, pp. 61-74.

Richter, Katrina. "Homeschoolers Are Always Late: What Every Museum Needs to Know About Alternative Learners." *Museum News*, March/April 2007, pp. 47-51.

Sheppard, Beverly. "Insistent Questions in Our Learning Age." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 35, Number 3, Fall 2010, pp. 217-228.

Ritchart, Ron. "Cultivating a Culture of Thinking in Museums." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 32, Number 2, Summer 2007, pp. 137-154.

Moisan, Heidi. "Finding Common Ground with the Common Core." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 40, No. 3, October 2015, pp. 238-249.

Ng-He, Carol. "Common Goals, Common Core: Museums and Schools Work Together." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 40, No. 3, October 2015, pp. 220-226.

<http://edglossary.org/21st-century-skills/> (Just this page - 21st Century Learning Skills defined)

<http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/myths-vs-facts/> (watch video & read myths vs. facts)

***Gallery Cart Project Due

November 8: Strategic Program Planning & Funding

Fortney, Kim and Beverly Sheppard. *An Alliance of Spirit: Museum & School Partnerships*. American Association of Museums, 2010, pp. 81-87.

Durel, John W. "No Mission, No Money: No Money, No Mission." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 35, Number 2, Summer 2010, pp. 193-200.

Bowers, Betsy and Rebecca Fulcher. "Seeing Potential, Pushing Possibilities: Thinking

Creatively About Revenue Opportunities." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 35, Number 2, Summer 2010, pp. 173-180.

Roberts, Laura B. "Assessment and Planning Using Portfolio Analysis." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 35, Number 2, Summer 2010, pp. 181-186.

Raiguel, Faith. "Pulling Museum Education Purse Strings." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 35, Number 3, Fall 2010, pp. 247-256.

Korn, Randi. "When Less is More." *Museum*, Sept/Oct 2010, pp. 25-27.

****Adult Program Observation Due*

November 15: Use of Technology in Museum Education

Johnson, Anna, et. al. *The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques*. Altamira Press, 2009, pp. 109-116.

Davidoff, John. "Social Butterfly." *Museum*, March-April 2012, pp. 31-33, 65, 67.

Clough, Dixie Leigh. "On the YouTube Bandwagon." *Museum*, July-August 2012, pp. 23-25.

Grove, Tim. "Reflections on the Past Decade." *History News*, Summer 2013, pp. 5-6.

Visser, Jasper. "Perspectives on Digital Engagement with Culture and Heritage." *History News*, Summer 2013, pp. 7-13.

Spero, Susan. "It's How You Play the Game." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 36, No. 3, Fall 2011, pp. 297-304.

Dowden, Robin and Scott Sayre. "The Whole World in Their Hands: The Promise and Peril of Visitor-Provided Mobile Devices." *The Digital Museum: A Think Guide*. Edited by Herminia Din and Phyllis Hecht, American Association of Museums, Washington, DC, 2007, pp. 35-44.

Din, Herminia. "Pedagogy and Practice in Museum Online Learning." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 40, No. 2, July 2015, pp. 102-109.

Moore, Claire. "Embracing Change: Museum Educators in the Digital Age." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 40, No. 2, July 2015, pp. 141-146.

Levine, Jeff. "Exploding the Four Walls: Museums Face the Prospects and Perils of Digital Learning." *Museum*, July/August 2015, pp. 30-39.

****Technology Review Due*

November 22: Role of the Museum Educator / Planning for a Career in Museum Education

Johnson, Anna, et. al. *The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques*. Altamira Press, 2009, pp. 7-14.

Bailey, Elsa B. "Researching Museum Educators' Perceptions of their Roles, Identity, and Practice." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 31, No. 3, Fall 2006, pp. 175-198.

Aukerman, Greg. "So You Want to Work in a Museum?: Confessions of an Art History Major." *Museum News*, March/April 2007, pp.

Simon, Nina. "Doing Time on the Front Line." *Museum*, July/August 2010, pp. 33, 67.

Franco, Barbara. "Advocacy for Education in Museums." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 35, No. 3, Fall 2010, pp. 229-236.

Garcia, Ben. "What We Do Best: Making the Case for Museum Learning in its Own Right." *Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 37, Number 2, Summer 2012, pp. 47-56.

Kai-Kee, Elliott. "Professional Organizations and the Professionalizing of Practice: The Role of MER, EdCom, and the NAEA Museum Education Division, 1969-2002." *Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 37, No. 2, Summer 2012, pp. 13-23.

****Professional Organization Fact Sheet Due – Remember to bring a copy for each of your classmates*

November 29: Ethics and Best Practices in Museum Education

"Excellence in Practice: Museum Education Standards and Principles." Education Committee of the American Association of Museums, 2002.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz_5mDyp81VsT1l4c1BtWFFLT1k/edit?pref=2&pli=1

"Code of Ethics for Museums," Committee on Ethics, American Association of Museums, 2000.

<http://www.aam-us.org/resources/ethics-standards-and-best-practices/code-of-ethics>

"AASLH Statement of Professional Standards and Ethics" download PDF here:

<http://resource.aaslh.org/view/aaslh-statement-of-professional-standards-and-ethics/>

Friedman, Maxine. "Shall We Go for a Ride?: A Conversation about the Role of the Staten Island Historical Society's Model T." *Journal of Museum Education*. Vol. 36, No. 2, Summer 2011, pp. 147-154.

***10 page personal museum education philosophy due

Further Reading (if you wish):

Levy, Barbara Abramoff, Sandra MacKenzie Lloyd and Susan Porter Schreiber. *Great Tours! Thematic Tours and Guide Training for Historic Sites*. Altamira Press and The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2001.

Bridal, Tessa. *Exploring Museum Theatre*. AltaMira Press, 2004.

Weisberg, Shelley Kruger. *Museum Movement Techniques: How to Craft a Moving Museum Experience*. AltaMira Press, 2006.

Weaver, Stephanie. *Creating Great Visitor Experiences: A Guide for Museums, Parks, Zoos, Gardens, & Libraries*. Left Coast Press, 2007.

Jones, Dale. "Theater 101 for Historical Interpretation."

<http://www.makinghistoryconnections.com/resources.html>

Hirzy, Ellen Cochran, ed. *Excellence and Equity: Education & the Public Dimension of Museums*. American Alliance of Museums, 2008.

Hirzy, Ellen. *Transforming Museum Volunteering: A Practical Guide for Engaging 21st Century Volunteers*, American Association for Museum Volunteers, 2007.

Falk, John. *Identity and the Museum Visitor Experience*, Left Coast Press, 2009.

Cunningham, Mary Kay. *The Interpreters Training Manual for Museums*. American Association of Museums, 2004.

Stevens, Greg and Wendy Luke. *A Life in Museums: Managing Your Museum Career*, American Association of Museums, 2012.

Hooper-Greenhill, Eilean. *Museums and Education: Purpose, Pedagogy, Performance*. Routledge, 2007.

Hein, George E. *Progressive Museum Practice: John Dewey and Democracy*, Left Coast Press, 2012.

Schatello-Sawyer, Bonnie, et.al. *Adult Museum Programs: Designing Meaningful Experiences*. Altamira Press, 2002.