UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
WINTER 2018

HIST*3480 – WORKPLACE LEARNING:
"Animals and the City"

Instructor & Workplace Supervisor: Dr. Lisa Cox

Interested students should contact Dr. Cox, coxl@uoguelph.ca

Course Format: Independent work with scheduled meetings.

Experiential Learning Opportunity: Museum exhibition development for the Barker Veterinary Museum at the Ontario Veterinary College

Are you interested in museums? Are you interested in working with artifacts? Would you like to engage with both scholarly and public audiences? Would you like to broaden your skills and apply them in different ways?

The Barker Veterinary Museum, located at the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph, is arguably the largest veterinary museum collection in Canada and one of the largest in North America. At over 12,000 artifacts, the collection reflects the long history of veterinary medicine in Canada, from the very earliest practitioners to the modern face of veterinary care. Artifacts in the collection reflect over 150 years of veterinary education, the practice of veterinary medicine in both rural and urban environments, as well as the service of veterinarians in the Canadian government and the armed forces.

Your experiential learning opportunity will involve proposing, planning and shaping an exhibit for the Barker Veterinary Museum in its main showcase space, the MacNabb Room, in the Ontario Veterinary College. Each year in June, the Barker Veterinary Museum, launches a new exhibit. 2019's theme will be "Animals in the City." Students will be tasked with creating a portion of the exhibit, which explores the historical and contemporary issues facing large, companion, and wild animals in urban areas, notably Guelph and Toronto.

In connecting this work experience to your academic work, you will submit a manageable amount of coursework that reflects the general phases of exhibit planning. They include weekly critical reflections, an exhibit proposal, an interpretive plan, artifact selection and scale drawings. Finally, students will be expected to submit final exhibit text panels and artifact labels.

Methods of Evaluation and Weights:

Exhibit Proposal	20%
Exhibit Interpretive Plan	30%
Scale Drawing of Exhibit	15%
Final Exhibit Text Panels and Artifact Labels	20%
Weekly Critical Reflections, submitted in two installments	15%

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge of museum exhibit planning best practices
Knowledge of museum exhibit writing practices
Knowledge and experience with handling museum artifacts
Knowledge of Canadian veterinary medicine and the history of animals and animal care
Ability to communicate compelling history to a public audience
Appreciation for public engagement
Appreciation for material history
Ability to critically reflect upon your work

Textbook:

There is no required textbook for this class, but it is strongly recommended that students purchase Beverly Serrell, *Exhibit Labels: An Interpretive Approach*, 2nd Ed. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015).

Project Timeline:

Week 1: Meeting with Dr. Cox to discuss the project. Guideline will be established for selecting topics, initial resources to consult. Introduction to the collection, museums and exhibit development

Weeks 1 – 3: Environmental scan of veterinary history, exhibit development and museum literature. Select potential topics for exhibit

Week 3: Exhibit Proposal due

Weeks 4 – 12: Research content and artifacts. Work on interpretive plan, scale drawings, final artifact labels and text panels

Week 6: First collection of weekly reflections due, covering weeks 1-5

Week 8: Interpretive Plan due

Week 10: Scale Drawing due

Week 12: Second collection of weekly reflections due, covering weeks 6-10

Week 13: Final Exhibit Text Panels, Artifact Labels due

*Please note: This is a preliminary description only. The department and instructor reserve the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first meeting of the semester.