

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
WINTER 2018**

**HIST*3480 – WORKPLACE LEARNING:
“Macdonald Institute Heritage”**

Instructor & Workplace Supervisor: Dr. Lisa Cox

Interested students should contact Dr. Cox, cox1@uoguelph.ca

Course Format: Independent work with scheduled meetings.

Experiential Learning Opportunity: Museum exhibition development for the Macdonald Heritage Room for the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

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 Macdonald Institute was founded in 1903 by Sir William Macdonald, an educational philanthropist and Montreal tobacco magnate, and Adelaide Hoodless, founder of the women’s institute movement and women’s education advocate. Concerned about the decline of rural populations and with a strong desire to equip rural women with the latest knowledge in domestic science and maternal and child health, among others. As a result, the Macdonald Institute became a premiere educational institution for Canadian women. Along with the Ontario Agricultural College, Ontario Veterinary College, the Macdonald Institute became one of the founding colleges of the University of Guelph in 1964.

Your experiential learning opportunity will involve proposing, planning and shaping an exhibit for the Macdonald Hall Heritage Room. Each year in June, a new exhibit is mounted in the Heritage Room and the theme for 2019 will be defined in consultation between the student, supervisor, and administration of the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS). CSAHS possesses an excellent collection of artifacts related to the history of the Macdonald Institute for students to learn and work with. Additionally, excellent resources are available about the Macdonald Institute in Archival & Special Collections at the University of Guelph.

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.*