

**SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC**  
**Fall Semester 2017**  
**ARTH\*3620-01**  
**MUSEUM STUDIES**



**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Kristin Patterson  
**TIME:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:20 pm  
**LOCATION:** Mackinnon, Rm. 114  
**OFFICE:** TBA  
**PHONE:** Ext.  
**EMAIL:** [kristinp@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kristinp@uoguelph.ca)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., or by appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This seminar course will be offered in conjunction with the staff and facilities of the Art Gallery of Guelph (formerly the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre) and will deal with historical matters relating to the role of the art museum in western life and the critical day-to-day management of a contemporary one. We will visit and evaluate museums and virtual exhibits, consider collecting strategies, study major exhibit controversies, and consider debates surrounding the politics of memory and visual display.

*Prerequisite(s):* 10.00 credits or by instructor permission

*Restriction(s):* Registration is limited to students registered in the Art History or Studio Art specializations with an average of 70% in all ARTH and SART course attempts.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to the history of museums and to debates on the philosophical nature of museums. Together we will examine different types of museums and explore the role of museums in the collection and display of art and culture. Through case studies we will consider how institutions and exhibitions shape ideas and information about the objects collected and presented. Emphasis will be placed on museums as microcosms of knowledge, collecting and consuming cultures, the role of the curator, the presentation of exhibitions, and museum style writing.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Gain an understanding of the objectives and functions of museums and art galleries
- Demonstrate an understanding of museum history and professional organizations
- Debate museum ethical issues
- Discuss critically, in written and verbal form, current issues in the philosophy of museums, museum missions, representation of the past, interpretation of cultural objects, and the role of museums in society
- Work collaboratively with others in team based learning and problem solving
- Learn the principles of curating an exhibition including forming an exhibition thesis, selecting artists and works, finding a location for the exhibition, and planning the installation design, educational programming, along with a promotional / marketing strategy

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

The readings for this course are selected from a variety of source material including artist’s writings, academic journal articles and web-hosted material. A detailed schedule of readings will be provided. All students are expected to have read and prepared notes on the assigned readings before classes.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Exhibition Review .....	20%	October 8
News Feed Share (3 x 5%).....	15%	Sept. 27, Oct. 18, Nov. 15
Case Study Presentation (as assigned).....	15%	October 23, 25, 30, Nov. 1
Exhibition Proposal.....	15%	November 12
Exhibition Presentation.....	20%	November 27, 29, Dec. 1
In Class Discussion.....	15%	Weekly

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Through the readings, discussion, and graded assignments the students will develop critical thinking and writing skills pertaining to the study of art collections and art objects. These skills will be developed through the discussion of a variety of museums contextualized by history, philosophy, and visual culture. The instructor will assist and “coach” throughout the process, but the main thrust of the exercise remains with the students. There are significant amounts of reading and audiovisual materials to take in this course. These materials must be examined in advance of the lectures. Students should come to class prepared to interact with the group. Reaching the course objectives rests with each individual student and her or his ability to demonstrate initiative and responsibility.

**EMAIL POLICY:**

I will respond to emails within 48 hours except Saturdays and Sundays and reserve the right to ignore your email if I consider the issue redundant. Please inquire only about the issues that require immediate attention and before you email your professor take a look at the syllabus, the materials posted on Courselink, and search on-line to try to find the answers on your own.

**VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING POLICY:**

Any form of in-class video or audio recording or electronic capturing using cell phones, i-phones, recording to laptop or tape players is strictly prohibited without the instructor’s consent and permission. The use of laptops and other similar writing devices in the seminar room and for presentations is allowed. Turn off your cell phone during class.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY:**

The penalty for all late assignments is -5% per assignment for each 24 hour period following the deadline to a maximum of five (5) days after which the paper will no longer

be accepted. Students are expected to contact the instructor immediately if she or he requires special consideration for medical or other compassionate reasons.

**IN-CLASS COMPUTERS POLICY:**

You may be requested to turn off your computer during lectures and I reserve the right to ask you to turn your computer off for the semester if I consider it is a distraction.

**LECTURE TOPICS INCLUDE:**

History of Museums  
Museums and Display  
Collecting and Collections  
Museum Ethics  
Politics of Memory and Remembering  
Museum Controversies  
Museum Architecture and Space  
Museums in the Digital Age