

**SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC**  
**Fall Semester 2015**  
**ARTH\*3620-01**  
**MUSEUM STUDIES**



**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Kristin Patterson  
**TIME:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30-9:50am  
**LOCATION:** Mackinnon, Rm. 114  
**OFFICE:** Johnston Hall, Rm. 113A  
**PHONE:** Ext. 58476  
**EMAIL:** [kristinp@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kristinp@uoguelph.ca) (for appointments only)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays/Thursdays, 3:30 – 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. Students will participate in the documentation of art objects for the permanent collection. 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 seminar-style course provides an examination of museums, their mandates and functions. Emphasis will be placed on museums as microcosms of knowledge, collecting and consuming cultures, the role of the curator, the presentation of exhibitions, museum style writing. The course will include visits to AGG.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Learn the principles of curating an exhibition
2. Gain an understanding of the objectives and functions of museums and art galleries
3. Work in groups learn to write an exhibition thesis; select artists, art works, and the location for the exhibition; plan the installation design, an educational program, and a promotional / marketing strategy
4. Learn to evaluate museum practices and exhibitions

**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 4
Exhibition Catalogue Entry .....	15% .....	October 16
News Feed Share.....	15%.....	Dates as Assigned
Case Study Presentation.....	15% .....	Weeks 7 & 8
Exhibition Proposal.....	15% .....	November 5
Exhibition Presentation.....	20% .....	Week 12

**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.