

**ARH 6983**  
**Introduction to Museum Studies**  
**Fall 2018**

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Seminar: Wednesday | Periods 4-6 (10:40-1:40)  
FAC 116A

Dr. Briley Rasmussen  
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Office: FAC 116B  
Office Hours: Thursday 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

**Course Description:**

Introduction to Museum Studies is part of the core curriculum of Museum Studies. It aims to introduce and familiarize students with the current and emerging practices in museums and critical literature of museum studies. This course will include guest speakers and visits to local museums with opportunities to meet and discuss the praxis of museums.

This course is organized into three sections—the history and development of museums, museum issues and practice today, and the future of museums.

This course also is constructed around key questions that will be considered and debated throughout the semester. These questions are:

- What is a museum and what is the work of museums?
- How has the history of museums shaped museums today?
- What is the social relevance of museum?
- How are/can museums be inclusive to increase social relevance?
- What is the future of museums? Museum work?

**Course Objective:**

Students will:

- Understand how the history of museums has constructed museums today;
- Engage with current theoretical debates in the field and consider how they are impacting practice;
- Understand the organization and operation of museums today and their role in society;
- Recognize the relationship between disciplinary and cultural shifts and their resonance in museum practice;
- Engage with current literature in the field;
- Develop professional writing and presentation skills

### **Recommended Textbooks:**

Anderson, Gail, ed. *Reinventing the Museum: The Evolving Paradigm Shift*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Lanham: Altamira Press, 2012.

MacDonald, Sharon, ed. *A Companion to Museum Studies*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2011.

### **Additional Recommendations:**

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

### **E-Learning/Canvas:**

More detailed information on assignments, weekly readings, and schedules, along with the complete syllabus are posted on the Canvas site for this class. Canvas is the most current resource for the class. Students are responsible for consulting the site for the latest information.

## **EVALUATION AND GRADING**

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### **Assignments**

- Participation 20%
- Learning Portfolio 40%
- Podcast 30%
- Annotated Bibliography 10%

### **Grade Scale:**

93.4-100=**A**; 90.0-93.3=**A-**; 86.7-89.9=**B+**; 83.4-86.6=**B**; 80.0-83.3=**B-**; 76.7-79.9=**C+**; 73.4-76.6=**C**; 70.0-73.3=**C-**; 66.7-69.9=**D+**; 63.4-66.6=**D**; 60.0-63.3=**D-**; 0-59.9=**E**

## **COURSE POLICIES AND PRACTICE**

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### **I NEED TO SPEAK WITH DR. RASMUSSEN. HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH HER?**

Dr. Rasmussen is a teacher, a researcher, and the Director of the Museum Studies program. This means that she isn't in her office all day or every day. It is most effective to:

- **COME TO OFFICE HOURS**—These hours are set aside explicitly to meet with students. It is the best way to speak with Dr. Rasmussen.
- **EMAIL OR CANVAS**—You can reach out to Dr. Rasmussen via email or through Canvas email. Dr. Rasmussen checks email a few times each day Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm. She will do her best to respond in a timely manner. If you email at night or over the weekend you should not anticipate a response until regular business hours.

- **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**—If you are unable to meet with Dr. Rasmussen during office hours you can make an appointment. The best times to meet with Dr. Rasmussen are during the afternoon Tuesday-Thursday.
- **TALK TO HER AFTER CLASS**—this is effective, but best for quick questions or to make appointments to speak in more depth at a later time.

#### LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

If you would like a letter of recommendation you should work throughout the semester to distinguish yourself so that there is evidence of your excellence. In addition, help me, help you. Please:

- Ask for the letter a minimum of ONE MONTH in advance of the deadline
- Include information on the job, internship, academic opportunity, etc that you are applying for
- Include your CV and achievement you would like highlighted in the letter
- Clearly state the deadline and how the letter should be submitted
- Gentle reminders leading up to the deadline are greatly appreciated

#### **Plagiarism and the Honor Code:**

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

This includes plagiarism, which includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

For more on plagiarism and the honor code see: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

#### **Attendance**

Attendance and participation are critical components of this course and your success. Students are expected to be on time to every class meeting. If, for some reason, you are unable to be in class please let me know in advance via email. More than three absences will impact your participation grade. A point will be deducted for each additional absence.

#### **Timeliness**

Students are expected to be in class, seated and prepared to begin at 10:40. Students should consider the class to be a professional environment and dress, behave, and treat their fellow students and instructor with professionalism. This includes giving them your attention when they are speaking, not speaking over others, and respectfully responding to others ideas or comments.

When the class is meeting at a museum or other site other than the classroom please be at least 10 minutes early so that we are all gathered and ready when we are met by our hosts. Students should also familiarize themselves with the institutions we are visiting and the biographies or careers of the people that we will be meeting with or the guest speakers that will be joining us. Students should also prepare and write down questions for the speakers in advance of these classes.

#### **Conduct**

Museums are places for debate and conversations about important issues facing us today and in the past. The class will also be a place for similar debate and discussion. At times we will be discussing sensitive topics. It is essential that students are respectful of each other's viewpoints and comments. Similarly, I encourage students to speak with me if they feel upset, unsafe, and unheard based on the discussions or atmosphere in class.

## **RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

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### **Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Writing Studio**

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

### **Basic Needs Security**

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in this course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources that I may possess.

### **Counseling and Wellness Center**

Take care of yourself! The stresses of graduate school can take a toll on our mental and physical health. The Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC) is dedicated to caring for students' wellbeing. If you are feeling unwell in anyway, including anxious or panicked, you can reach out to the **CWC: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>, 392-1575;**

For concerns about physical safety or to report crimes or incidents you can contact the **University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1** for emergencies.

### **Online Course Evaluation:**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Course Schedule ARH 6938 | FALL 2018  
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Week One	August 22	Introduction to Museum Studies
Week Two	August 29	Introduction to Museum Histories When is a museum?
Week Three	September 5	Histories of Museums II Presentations
Week Four	September 12	Museums as Places of Learning—a Historical Perspective
Week Five	September 19	Introduction to Podcasting and Storytelling
Week Six	September 26	The New Museology
Week Seven	October 3	Post modernism, Post colonialism, and multiculturalism
Week Eight	October 10	Visitor-Centered Experience
Week Nine	October 17	Museum and Money: Development, Commercial Ventures, and the Ethics of Fundraising
Week Ten	October 24	Empathy and the Emotional Museum
Week Eleven	October 31	Decolonization of Museums and Cultural Patrimony
Week Twelve	November 7	Interpreting Slavery in the US
Week Thirteen	November 14	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Week Fourteen	November 21	NO CLASS—Thanksgiving
Week Fifteen	November 28	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion II
Week Sixteen	December 5	Presentation of Learning Portfolios