

# Colloquium in Museum Studies

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ARH 6930 Special Topics in Museum Studies

Thursdays 11:45-2:45 pm



Location: Fine Arts Building C, Room 116 A

Office Hours: Directly after class on Thursday until 3:30 pm (most Thursdays)

By appointment (please contact me via text/email and arrange)

**(Syllabus is highly subject to change)**

## Graduate Colloquium

As emerging museum professionals, it is imperative that we understand the basic foundations of career-building. It is also imperative that we are in constant reflection and responsiveness with the discourse within our discipline. We should always be learning new skillsets as well. In this course we will co-design a hybrid learning experience where students select the critical museum professionalization and learning that they feel relevant to their career development. When we pair professional development and learning with the structures of traditional graduate colloquium students are able to contend with the global reckoning of postcolonial legacies that are embedded into our cultural heritage systems. We are currently at a pivotal moment in which important structural changes are not only being thought through but

transformation and change is happening in real time. We will consider the interdisciplinary studies which intersect with Museum Studies and imagine projects, professional development, and immersive experiences for rich learning locally, nationally, and internationally.

The goal of colloquium is to identify and uplift language, thinking, and ideology regarding Museum Studies and share ideas for maximum learning so that students are best prepared for entering a competitive job market.

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

### Critical Questions

1. What are the most pressing information needs of emerging museum professionals?
2. What are the best tools to market and promote your skillsets as a museum professionals?
3. What is career-mapping?
4. What specific skillsets are required for the museum positions that I am seeking?
5. What are the pressing issues regarding the museum field that I need to be aware of and prepared for?
6. Do I have the museum experience that I need in order to apply for desired positions?
7. What is networking?
8. What is a digital portfolio for museum professionals?

### Course Objectives

- A. Students will design immersive, participatory, and relevant exercises for learning in professional museum settings
- B. Students will understand the changing museum job market and prepare tangible deliverables which will allow them to be visible and marketable in the field
- C. Students will engage with current theoretical debates in the field and consider how they are impacting practice
- D. Students will organize professional development opportunities to increase their learning and skillsets
- E. Students will prepare and organize a public colloquium

### Statement on EIAJ and Curricula

#### **Overview and Philosophy**

Museum Studies is a vital discipline at the intersection of cultural heritage, informatics, digital technologies, material culture, history, and more. It is an in-depth examination of the role of museums in society. Our discipline's assumptions have been based on the notion that cultural

heritage institutions exist to collect and preserve the material culture of nations for public display. While these conventions are predicated on the notion that access to these resources is a human right, it is our belief that it is necessary to interrogate these practices to maintain critical standards of ethics, empathy, and professionalization. We actively explore and seek deeper meaning and healing around issues of reparations, repatriation, cultural and national agency. We prioritize the need to cultivate challenging dialogue, shape innovation in the field, and create ideological change for the healthy growth and expansion of our field.

We understand the complex histories of colonialism and imperialism and their compounded impact on museums as institutions. As such, we understand that it is imperative to decolonize our curricula. 21st century museum scholarship and professionals must actively engage in anti-racist pedagogies and expand beyond museology as it is currently practiced.

## **CRITICAL PEDAGOGY**

I believe deeply in critical pedagogy and critical inquiry. In the Digital and Information Age, this is the foundation of intellectual and academic excellence.

We will employ an Inquiry-based learning model in this course (IBL). **What is Inquiry?** Inquiry is the vital skillset of asking questions to obtain, evaluate, and acquire knowledge. Inquiry-based learning allows you to:

- Make cross-course connections
- Increase engagement with course material
- More deeply connect theories and principles
- Critically analyze, synthesize, and evaluate varying bodies of knowledge and information content
- Engage in powerful dialogue with your peers and professor even when you disagree

Good, solid inquiry is based on two principles: 1) **Active Inquiry** and 2) **Active Listening**. Consider these two actions your most important tasks this semester.

### **Active Inquiry**

Here are some general guidelines for my expectations of how you will use the language of Inquiry to pose critical questions to one another. (Although, please rest assured that there is no expectation for some of the language to be this formal).

Here are some types of questions that tend to facilitate thoughtful, sustained discussions:

### **Analysis**

Questions beginning with “Why...” “How would you explain...” “What is the importance of...” “What is the meaning of”

- Example: What is the meaning of Madame X’s comment about Jacque’s activities the week before their encounter at the opera?

### **Compare and Contrast**

“Compare...” “Contrast...” “What is the difference between...” “What is the similarity between...”

- Example: What is the difference between the mother and the father’s attitudes toward the daughter’s relationship with Philippe?

### **Cause and Effect**

“What are the causes/results of...” “What connection is there between...”

- Example: What is the cause of Lea’s distress when she looks at herself in the mirror?

### **Clarification**

“What is meant by...” “Explain how...”

I would also like to point out that the basis of seminar is that we are all in direct communication with the entire body of literature in museum studies. We should be mindful that we are to constantly be in conversation with every work that we read. Therefore, another powerful technique is to reference the readings and their authors as a way to increase connections between works so that key terms, principles, themes, frameworks, theories, and ideologies are centered in our conversations.

The reality is that I will not have all of the “answers”; neither will you. However, collectively we have a powerful brain trust that is a force for change in our field to be reckoned with.

Please consider and refer to this classic skillset for Effective Listening (What I call Active Listening).

**Source:** William H. Bergquist and Steven R. Phillips, *A Handbook for Faculty Development, Volume 2*. Washington, D.C.: Council for the Advancement of Small Colleges, 1977, p. 207.

Ineffective

Effective

Non-Verbal Behavior

Listener looks bored, uninterested, or judgmental; avoids eye contact; displays distracting mannerisms (doodles, plays with a paper clip, etc.)

Listener maintains positive posture; avoids distracting mannerisms; keeps attention focused on speaker; maintains eye contact; nods and smiles when appropriate

Focus of Attention

Listener shifts focus of attention to himself: "When something like that happened to me, I . . ."

Listener keeps focus of her comments on the speaker: "When that happened what did you do?"

Acceptance

Listener fails to accept speaker's ideas and feelings: "I think it would have been better to . . ."

Listener accepts ideas and feelings: "That's an interesting idea; can you say more about it?"

Empathy

Listener fails to empathize: "I don't see why you felt that . . ."

Listener empathizes: "So when that happened, you felt angry."

Probing

Listener fails to probe into an area, to follow up on an idea or feeling

Listener probes in a helpful way (but does not cross examine): "Could you tell me more about that? Why did you feel that way? Listener follows up: "A few minutes ago you said that . . ."

Paraphrasing

Listener fails to check the accuracy of communication by restating in his own words important statements made by the speaker

Listener paraphrases to guarantee that she has understood correctly and to assure speaker that this is so

Summarizing

Listener fails to summarize

Listener summarizes the progress of the conversation from time to time

Advice

Listener narrows the range of alternatives by suggesting one "correct" course of action

Listener broadens the range of ideas by suggesting (or asking the speaker for) a number of alternatives

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# COURSE POLICIES



## COVID

Covid protocols are ever-changing, please vigorously consult this UF website to receive updated information about Covid guidelines:

<https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/>

### Course Attendance

**Pre Covid, here is what I would have begun with regarding attendance:**

Attendance and participation are critical components of this course and your success. If, for some reason, you are unable to be in class please let me know in advance via email. If a crisis or life-threatening emergency has occurred; please alert me as soon as possible after your absence should advance notice is not feasible. Please note that in many cases accompanying documentation might be required. More than three absences will impact your participation/overall grade. A point will be deducted for each additional absence. Upon noticeable absences, I will call for a one-on-one meeting.

Additionally, I mark attendance by your being fully present physically, cognitively, and intellectually. Showing up, weighing in, and making powerfully creative and significant contributions to course discussion can greatly contribute to the success of your final grade in the course.

**Here is how Covid impacts my attendance policy:**

Self-preservation, caregiving, and resilience have become the tools we must employ to thrive and practice our best response to safety in these times. While it is my expectation that you adhere to the above; taking care of yourself is a priority. Therefore, if you are feeling ill or

concerned that you might have been exposed to Covid-19, please do not hesitate to adhere to the on-going UF policies regarding Covid.

In general, the expectation is that you attend class physically and in-person. There might be times when the instructor is away presenting that requires that we meet virtually via Zoom. However, that is not likely. Please do not ask to access class virtually as a permanent method of course attendance unless you have official accommodations registered with the University.

### **Per UF's Absence Policy Guidelines:**

Students may only participate in classes if they are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.

Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first-class meeting.

Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to engage in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor.

For all planned absences, a student in a situation that allows an excused absence from a class, or any required class activity must inform the instructor as early as possible prior to the class. For all unplanned absences because of accidents or emergency situations, students should contact their instructor as soon as conditions permit.

Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered during absence from class or inability to engage in class activities because of the reasons outlined above.

If a student does not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and they have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, the student can be dropped from the course.

Students must not assume that they will be dropped, however. The department will notify students if they have been dropped from a course or laboratory.

The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or inability to fully engage in class. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

**Read more here to learn about UF's Attendance Policies as it relates to Illness, Sports Activities, Religious Holidays, and more:**

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

### **A Word on Timeliness**

Students are expected to be on time and prepared to begin at 10:40 AM. **When the class is meeting at a site other than the classroom, please arrive at least 10 minutes prior. 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. Students should also prepare questions for the speakers in advance of these classes.**

### **Classroom Conduct**

The relational landscape of a classroom is an important factor in creating an **energetic learning environment**. I want us to be energized; always. The most conducive way to achieve this landscape is to practice empathy. There is a myriad of definitions for “empathy”. I offer that empathy in the university classroom has two goals:


1. Helping students understand how seeking to make connections with the unfamiliar/their own information gaps can transform their learning experience
2. Helping students navigate modalities of Discernment, Agency, and Empathy.




I believe that museums can change the world; but we need empathetic, inspired museum workers to do so. Empathy is a way for us to understand how others are feeling even when it does not make sense to us. There are at least three types of empathy: 1) Cognitive, 2) Emotional, and 3) Compassionate. As such, I ask that you maintain this basic classroom behavior for our greatest possible learning experience:

Students should dress, behave, and treat their fellow students and instructor with professionalism. This includes giving them your full attention, not speaking over others, and respectfully responding to others' ideas or comments.



All of us will have differing opinions about a plethora of subjects. We can agree to disagree. Please do not deflate another’s joy or passion for a subject simply because you do not share the same viewpoints. Higher education has room for variety of thought.



Focus Skills	Focus Skill in Action	Key Experiences
 Discernment	Thinking critically about rigorous content. Telling truth from fiction. Weighing arguments against context to find the right next step.	Small Group Instruction Balanced Literacy Academic Discourse College Exploration & Planning
 Agency	Exploring potential paths. Possessing the skills to plan, act and reflect. Responsibility. Using your voice effectively. Applying theory to practice. Leveraging opportunities.	Worthy Problems/Projects Exhibition Field Work Goal Setting Public Speaking/Presenting
 Empathy	Seeing and seeking multiple perspectives. Valuing difference. Caring about others even when you don’t agree with them.	Circle Practices & Conflict Resolution Student Led Conferences Service Learning

Credit: “Helping Students Develop Discernment, Agency, and Empathy” By Sherre Vernon, Shelli Kurth and Joe Acker

**Pronouns**

*My pronouns are She/Her. I recognize the fact that pronouns are not preferences; they just are. Please feel free to alert us what your pronouns are. There is the full expectation that as a class group we are respectful of all pronouns that we have been directed to use as a collective. In return, there is the expectation that allowing for proper/correct use of directed pronouns come with possible learning curves for some as they adjust to that notion grammatically.*

## **Canvas**

**The (printed) syllabus is highly subject to change.** More detailed information on assignments, weekly readings, and schedules, along with the complete syllabus will be posted on the Canvas site for this class. Canvas will serve as the most current resource for the class.

Students are responsible for consulting the site for the latest information regularly.

**Museums are places for debate and conversations about important issues facing us today and in the past. Current issues that are near-crisis point in museums include: structural racism, repatriation, single-use plastics/environmental stewardship, pay wages, and more. 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. We will also be learning what might be new language and frameworks. I encourage you to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Similarly, I encourage students to speak with me if they feel upset, unsafe, and unheard based on the discussions or atmosphere in class. I welcome the opportunity to shore up any issues of safety, inclusion, empathy, etc.**

## **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>.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/).

## **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/>

# Privacy

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled.

The only allowable purposes are:

- (1) for personal educational use
- (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or
- (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited.

Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course.

A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section.

Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action

instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Conduct Code.

## **How to Submit Deliverables**

The submission process for the course is fairly simple:

**Written assignments** should use 1.5 spacing, 12 point font in Times New Roman, edited for proper grammar and spelling and stylized for Chicago or APA.

**Submitting Assignment**--Written assignments and presentation PowerPoints should be uploaded to Canvas by 11:59pm the day they are due. They **MUST** also be submitted by hardcopy in class (except PP).

## **Student Resources & Accommodations**

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.

## **The 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/](http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/) or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

Link to UF Grades and Grading Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

## **Grading Scale**

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-;

## **Assignments** \*(Dates are co-created with students based on selection of project)

Digital Portfolio 200

LinkedIn Profile 200

Professional Website 200

Museum Night Project 300

Professional Interview 100

Public Colloquium 300

Participation/Discussion Readings 300

Group Projects (Miscellaneous) 300

Professional Project 100

# Academic Success Tools

Academic Resources E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process

# Self-Care + Preservation

## **Basic Needs Security**

Any student who facing 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. But also, please do not hesitate to contact me directly as well.

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### **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>.

Telephone: 392-1575

Campus Resources: Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

# Important Dates

Please check this link for access to important UF Dates:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/dates-deadlines/2023-2024/#fall23text>