Sample Syllabus for ART 505

ART 505 Proseminar in Art Museum Studies  Spring 2019

M/W 2:30 – 3:45 P.M.  Class Room: AR 106
Instructor:  Dr. David A. Lewis, AR 123A, e-mail: dlewis@sfasu.edu; phone ext. 4328
Office Hours: M/W 1:30—2:30pm, T/R 3:30—5:00; Fri. 9—10:50, 1:00—4:00, by appointment

Class Meets:  T/R: 5-6:15pm

Texts:

Note: Additional photocopied reading assignments will be provided as needed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
ART 505 Provides an intensive introduction to the history, theory and praxis of art museums. The course explores the function of museums, in terms of organization, operation and administration. We will consider questions of collections development and management: when and what and why does a museum collect? What ethical, legal and financial concerns are to be encountered? In regards to public programs, how does a museum development and serve a public? To what extent are people of all walks of life involved in the planning, financing and programs of public and private museums, and corporate collections? How are museums to keep pace with, and anticipate, the future needs of an aging populace, more diverse racial, ethnic, and religious/non-religious audiences? How will rapid changes in technology and increasing concerns for “green” practices to reduce the global carbon footprint affect the future of museums—and vice versa?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Students who successfully complete ART 505 will demonstrate competency in understanding the foundations level of museum history, theory and practice. This will prepare them for more advanced work in Museum Studies. Students will demonstrate a mastery of the following principles: 1) art museum history; 2) modern principles of museum structure and organization; 3) museum management, 4) museum collections, 5) museum funding, 6) public programs, and 7) curatorial terminology.

STUDENT EVALUATION:
Students will be assigned according to their performance on three examinations (consisting of essay and objective questions) and a term project (to be determined in consultation with the supervising instructor). Students are also expected to become actively engaged in class discussions and participate in field trips. They are to maintain a weekly journal and are also encouraged to interact with guest speakers.

Grades:   A 380—400; B 360—379; C 340—359; D 300—339

Exam #1: 100 points; # 2: 100 pts.; Final #100 pts.; term project 100 pts.; class participation (documented via journal entries and classroom activities—journals may be collected by the instructor at anytime for review) #100 pts.
COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week Number: Topics and Reading Assignments:

Readings: MB2, 2—16; NMT, 1—36.

Jan. 29, 31. “The Museum and Its Users”—Understanding the Public and Building an Audience, or Two, Three, or More,” “Artists and Workshops”
Readings: MB2, 18—42; NMT, 247—265.

Readings: MB2, 42—67; NMT, 203—225.

Feb. 12, 14. “Presentation and Interpretation: Strategies and Resources”
Readings: MB2, 78—97; NMT, 266—291.
Readings: MB2, 67—77

Setting the Stage: Exhibition Design and Installation Basics
Readings: MB2, 104—119 (and supplemental reading in handouts).

“Making Lasting Impressions: Museum Publications and Exhibition Documentation from wall texts to catalogues.”
Readings: MB2, 116—122 (and supplemental reading in handouts).

Readings: NMT, 236—246; MB2, 122—128.
“Working with Friends and Membership Groups”
Readings: MB2, 128—131.

Mar. 12, 14. “Development and Care of Museum Collections, part 1: Types of Collections, Policies for Accessioning and De-accessioning; Donations, Purchases, Loan Acquisitions”
Readings: MB2, 133—146.
“For the Record: Oral History, Photographic, Video, and Digital Archival Documentation Systems”
Readings: MB2, 146—158, 301—303.

Term Project Proposals Due by March 14.

Spring Break—March 16-24
Mar. 26, 28. “The Role of Collections in Research; Case Studies in Ethical Considerations and Repatriation”
Readings: MB2, 159—162 (and supplemental readings, “Case Studies” handout);
Guest Speaker from regional museum (To be determined).

March 29. **Fieldtrip to MFA Houston and the Menil for Van Gogh and Sally Mann exhibitions**

Apr. 2, 4. “To Preserve and Protect: Conservation Practice and Environmental Monitoring”
Readings: MB2, 163—179.
“A Cool, Dry Space: Storage Principles and Practice,” “The White Glove Treatment: Proper Handling, Packing and Moving of Collections”
Readings: MB2, 180—193; NMT, 85—105.

Apr. 8, 10. **Second Exam, Tuesday, April 6.**
“Security and Disaster Preparedness”
Readings: MB2, 193—204 (and supplemental readings, “Case Studies” handout).

Readings: MB2, 205—234; NMT, 39—63.

Readings: MB2, 235—257 (and supplemental readings, “Case Studies” handout).

April 29, May 1.

Readings: MB2, 258—273.

Readings: MB2, 273—284.

Readings: MB2, 284—303.

Finals Week: **Final Exam, (see notice to be posted on Art Office door)**