

VAH/VAS4485E Museum and Curatorial Practicum



image: Emily Jacir, Ex Libris, 2012

Professor: Dr. Kirsty Robertson
Office: VAC 221
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30
Email: kirsty.robertson@uwo.ca

TA: Katie Oates
Office: PhD offices
Office Hours:
Email: koates2@uwo.ca

Course Description and Objectives:

This participatory museum studies course introduces students to the technical aspects of museum work as well as the ethical ramifications of these methods as they are applied in art, history, and ethnographic museums. The course includes both theoretical and practical components, and moves from introducing students to the history of and debates over the philosophical nature of museums, through a process resulting in the development of a critically sophisticated curated exhibition. The class includes field trips, discussions with professionals in the field, and the study of major exhibit controversies and debates about the politics of memory and visual display.

Students are required to write an essay, to complete a series of short assignments, and to participate in a group assignment. However, 20% of the final grade is based on participation in the exhibition. Each student will assume a specific role in this endeavour and will work closely with the professor, the TA, and other students. A good portion of the work in this class will be

self-directed, and students should be prepared to assume responsibility for their aspect of the final exhibition, and to spend as much time working in remote locations as they do in class.

This course will familiarize students with the debates that shape museum scholarship as well as the various issues central to the preparation and staging of an exhibition. It will provide them with an opportunity to develop their research, writing, and presentation skills. Students will learn to evaluate written texts and exhibitions and think critically about the development and role of museums in Western culture.

***** during seminar discussions all laptops and other electronic equipment should be closed and turned off.**

*****all written assignments will be handed in prior to the start of class. Short assignments will be submitted through Owl Dropbox. NO EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Required Texts:

All course readings are available on Owl. It is the student's responsibility to let the professor or the TA know in advance if s/he has any trouble downloading the readings.

Assignment Breakdown

Fall semester:

Short Assignments 10%: November 8
Final Curatorial Paper abstract 2%: November 29
Group Assignment 20%: December 6
Participation (including article summaries): 10%

Winter semester:

Short Assignments 10%: March 28
Final Curatorial Paper 18%: April 4
Exhibition 20%: grades assigned after de-installation
Participation (including article summaries): 10%