

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Course title: **EXHIBITION PRACTICES I: INTRODUCTION TO MUSEUM STUDIES**

Course prefix and number: **Art 3308**

Course meeting location: Fox Fine Arts A355

Course meeting times: Wednesday, 9:30am to 12:20am

Course credit: 3

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: Daniel Carey-Whalen

Office location: Kelly Hall, 220

Office hours: by appointment

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**INSTRUCTOR INTRODUCTION**

**Daniel Carey-Whalen** has spent over ten years in the museum field as an educator, program coordinator, and grant writer. He has been a Museum Educator at the Johnson County Museums of History, the Kansas Historical Society, and the Galveston County Historical Museum, and the Director of Programs for the Kansas Humanities Council. He has written several successful grant applications, the most recent was from Humanities Texas. He holds a B.A. in History from the University of Missouri- Kansas City and a Master's of Arts in American Studies and Master's of Urban Planning from the University of Kansas. He has taught Humanities and Western Civilization at the University of Kansas, including a class of his own design, *The Idea of the City in Western Civilization*.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This introductory course will examine a number of aspects of museums, including an understanding of museum origins and development, in addition to their roles and functions in contemporary society, as well as ways that museums reflect cultural and social values. Utilizing on-site visits, students will understand the various types of museums (history, art, science, etc.), how they are managed (government owned, non-profit, private), and the multitude of occupations within the museum. This class is intended to give students a working acquaintance with museum functions and roles within the context of newer museum ideals and challenges.

The writing assignments should give you a taste of some of the activities of museum professionals.

**READINGS*****Texts***

Latham, Kiersten F. and John E. Simmons, Foundations of Museum Studies: Evolving Systems of Knowledge, ABC-CLIO, LLC, Santa Barbara, CA, 2014.

***Articles***

See Course Calendar below

Other readings as assigned by the instructor

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. By successfully earning credit for this class, students will have one of the three required classes for the Museum Studies minor at UTEP.
2. Students will understand what museums are, how they came to be, and their roles in contemporary society.
3. Students will visit various museums and cultural institutions and gain an appreciation for what they do and the various roles within museums.

### **COURSE DELIVERY OR STYLE**

The course will consist of class discussions, presentations by the instructor, guest lecturers, and students, independent projects with various museums within the community, and field trips both during class time and outside of class.

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

You will be graded on a point system, with a total of 100 points based on the assignments below:

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- Below 60 F

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

As this course depends heavily on interaction with outside individuals and departments, course assignments and due dates may be adapted by instructor to reflect real-life obstacles or modifications to development of exhibitions. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on blackboard.

#### **Attendance and participation- 20 pts**

Your attendance and participation grade will be assigned based on your participation in class discussion and activities and your regular attendance in the class. Instructor will regularly take attendance and will regularly assess participation in classroom discussion, especially when we are meeting off-site or hosting a visitor.

#### **Service Learning- 20 pts**

Students MUST have **Twenty (20) hours** of service learning at a prescribed local museum or cultural center. Experiences may include: taking down or installing exhibitions, helping organize and staffing events, or helping catalog and inventory a collection.

Student MUST write a self-review **due November 30**. Answer the following 5 questions:

1. What did you do during your twenty hours?
2. What did you learn from your experience?
3. What was the most challenging aspect of your experience? Why?
4. What surprised you? What disappointed you?
5. How did this experience shape the way in which you perceive/understand museums?

**Museum Exhibit Review- 20 pts (10 pts each)**

All students MUST complete two exhibit reviews. The first Review will be of the *Remember Me: Children of the Holocaust* exhibit and will be due prior to October 12. The second Review, of any exhibit in any museum in the Las Cruces/Juarez/El Paso area, will be due by the end of the semester.

Each review must cover the following questions:

1. Where was the exhibit? What was the title of the exhibit?
2. What is the purpose of the exhibit? i.e. Why does the museum have this exhibit?
3. What is the “big idea” for the exhibition?
4. Exhibits should tell a story. What is the story or narrative being told?
5. Who is the intended audience?
6. What type of objects were used to tell the story? Were these objects successful at communicating the narrative?
7. Were the labels clear and concise? Did they help clarify or expand the exhibit, or were they disruptive or incomplete?
8. How did the exhibit engage the senses? Were there hands-on components?
9. How was the layout and design of the exhibit? Was it distracting or did it complement the objects within the space?
10. What did you find most interesting?

**Defining Museums project- 10 pts**

All students examine the websites of AAM, AASLH, etc.

1. What are these organizations’ definitions of a museum?
2. How do they differ from other organizations?

Details to follow. This will be due on **October 5**.

**Final Exam- 20 pts**

Students will be required to take a Final Examination during the scheduled time period during the week of December 5-9. Questions for the exam will come from readings, lectures, and field trips. The exam will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay.

**Exhibit Installation- 10 pts**

All students must take part in the installation of a small exhibit on campus. Grades will be based on effort and involvement in the installation. Details of the exhibit and grading rubric will be discussed later. Class time on November 23<sup>rd</sup> will be used for the installation. If you cannot participate on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, please contact me ASAP.

**NOTE: NEED TO FIND A SMALL INSTALLATION PROJECT**

**Extra credit**

Extra credit opportunities will be offered at the instructor’s discretion.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance** and promptness are mandatory. If you miss a class, or know you will miss a class, contact me ASAP. Unless otherwise noted, all classes will meet in Fox Fine Arts.

All cell phones must to be turned off during class time.

Students are required to attend all field trips scheduled during regular class time. Visiting museums during the semester is strongly encouraged and will be required at several points during the semester. By enrolling in this class, you make a commitment to publically represent the Museum Studies program.

**Academic Integrity:** This course is based on the principle of academic integrity. Students are responsible for their own academic behavior, and for making themselves fully aware of UTEP's policies. Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students' Office for disciplinary action. In addition to receiving a failing grade in the class, the student may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Further information can be found at the UTEP Dean of Students' web page, <http://www.utep.edu/dos/>.

**Disability:** Any student with a disability that may prevent her/him from fully demonstrating her/his abilities should contact me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate educational opportunity. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office (<http://www.utep.edu/dsso>, (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY, e-mail: [dss@utep.edu](mailto:dss@utep.edu), East Union Bldg. Room 106) within the first 2 weeks of classes.

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

### **Wednesday, August 24**

Overview of course syllabus and Introductions

The Big Idea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUIt27iqjLA>

**Site visit-** ASARCO exhibition at UTEP Library

### **Wednesday, August 31- History of Museums**

Service Learning- Center for Civic Engagement

**Read:** Chapter 2: *The Origins of Museums* in *Foundations of Museum Studies (Foundations)*, and, Cornell, Esther Thompson, "The El Paso Centennial Museum, 1935-1946," *Password*, Vol. 26, No. 4, Spring 1981(**Blackboard**).

**Site visit-** Centennial Museum

**Wednesday, September 7- Object-based learning**

Service Learning- Center for Civic Engagement

**Assignment: Bring an object to class/**Sharing objects- Material culture and our lives

**Read:** Pages 83-87 from Chapter 6: *The Meaningful Physical Resource* in Foundations, Prown, Jules David, “The Truth of Material Culture: History or Fiction?” in Lubar and Kingerly, ed.

History From Things: Essays on Material Culture, 1993 (**Blackboard**), and,

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/education/enhancing-pupil-learning-on-museum-visits/content-section-1>

**Wednesday, September 14- Museum Systems- Meet at El Paso Museum of Art**

**Read:** Chapter 3: *The Museum System*, Chapter 4: *Dimensions of Museums*, and Chapter 7: *Museum Workers* in Foundations.

**Site visit- EPMA**

*Exhibit: September 15- Rubin Center openings*

**Wednesday, September 21- Types of Museums- Meet at El Paso Museum of History**

**Read:** Chapter 5: *Species of Museums* in Foundations

**Site visits-** EP Museum of History and International Museum of Art

**Wednesday, September 28- Museums and Society**

**Read:** Chapter 1: *Defining Museums* in Foundations, Anderson, Gail, “A Framework: Reinventing the Museum” in Anderson, ed. Reinventing the Museum: The Evolving Conversation on the Paradigm Shift, 2012 (**Blackboard**), and Koster, Emlyn, “The Relevant Museum: A Reflection on Sustainability” in Anderson, ed. Reinventing the Museum, 2012 (**Blackboard**).

**Wednesday, October 5- Exhibit installation- Lighting and Light Design**

**Read:** Anrys, Frederik and Philip Dutre, “Image-Based Lighting Design” (**Blackboard**).

**Site visit-** Rubin Center for the Visual Arts

*Exhibit: October 5- Rubin Opening*

**Wednesday, October 12- Collections Management/Registrar**

**Read:** Chapter 6: *The Meaningful Physical Resource* in Foundations

**Site visit-** UTEP Biodiversity Collections

**Wednesday, October 19- Collections Management/Curation**

**Read:** Chapter 1: *Considering Collections Management Policy* and Chapter 11 *Documentation* in Things Great and Small: Collections Management Policies, 2006 (**Blackboard**).

**Site visit-** Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens

**Wednesday October 26- Curation**

**Read:** TBA

**Wednesday, November 2- Fundraising/Grant Writing and Evaluation**

**Read: TBA**

**Wednesday, November 9- Community Engagement**

**Read:** Chapter 8: *Museums Users* in Foundations,

Johnson, Anna, "Museum Education and Museum Educators" in Bingman, et.al., ed. The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques, 2009 (**Blackboard**), and Matelic, Candace Tangorra, "New Roles for Small Museums" (**Blackboard**).

**Wednesday, November 16- Community Engagement- Meet at EP Holocaust Museum**

**Site visits-** El Paso Holocaust Museum

**Wednesday, November 23- Exhibit Installation**

**Wednesday, November 30- The Future of Museums**

**Read:** Chapter 9: *Contemporary Museums* and 10: *The Future of Museum* in Foundations,

**Wednesday, December 2- Dead Day**

**Final Examination, December 5-9?**