HONORS 351-001: HONORS SEMINAR IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (SS)
Museums and Society (Fall 2018)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 am, Honors House 195

Instructor: Hilary K. Snow, PhD
Office hours: Mondays – Thursdays 9 – 9:30 am
Mondays and Wednesdays 10:45 am – 12:15 pm
Thursdays 10:45 – 11:45 am
Also by appointment
Office: Honors College 151
Email: snowh@uwm.edu

Course Description
This course will explore two main questions – How do museums shape our understanding of our own culture and others? What roles do museums play in our society? To answer these questions, we will investigate several topics related to the history and current status of museums. We will discuss the rise of “cabinets of curiosity” in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which became the forerunners of modern museums. We will examine the establishment of modern museums, the politics of display, and the ethics of collecting. Case studies will include the Milwaukee Public Museum, Fred Wilson’s Mining the Museum, the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the Milwaukee Art Museum’s expansions.

GER Statement
This course fulfills UWM’s GER requirements. To this end, this course is intended to:
1. Increase students’ critical and creative thinking skills through classroom discussions and written assignments.
2. Provide students with opportunities to hone their effective communication skills through classroom discussions and presentations.
3. Stimulate students’ intercultural knowledge and competence through the introduction of new content and ideas.

Credit Hour Breakdown
The expected minimum number of hours of energy expended by students in this class is as follows:
- Classroom discussion and discussion: 37.5 hours
- Reading and outside activities: 56.5 hours
- Paper research and writing: 50 hours
- Total: 144 hours

University Policies
For relevant policies governing attendance, religious observances, disability accommodations, incompletes, and other issues, please visit: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf. Please notify me immediately if you need accommodations under any of these policies.

Textbook
There is no textbook for this class. All readings are available as PDFs or links on the course D2L site.
Other material
As part of the course, students will visit the Milwaukee Public Museum at least three times during the semester. I recommend purchasing a Student Classic membership for $25 at your first visit (student id required). Regular student admission is $14. Students will be responsible for the $8 admission fee to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center on Friday, November 16th. Students will visit other museums of their choice as well and may incur additional admission fees.

Assignments
Further instructions for written assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

• Discussion leading – At each class meeting, a student will lead the initial discussion of the reading through providing questions and background. Students should submit a list of their questions and discussion notes.
• Exhibition analysis paper – Students will select one exhibition at the Milwaukee Public Museum to analyze in detail. Due October 4th. May be rewritten.
• Issue analysis paper – Students will select one reading/topic from class discussion and expand their response to the theme in a short paper. Due November 20th. May be rewritten.
• Research paper – Students will select a topic related to the course for a term research paper. Final papers are due December 13th.
• Critical response papers – Throughout the semester, students will write short (300-500 words) responses to field trips, readings and other ideas from class. Due as announced.
• Students are expected to actively and productively participate in class discussions. To fully participate, preparation is required outside of class. Sometimes this participation will include visits to area museums.

Grading Procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion leading</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Response essays</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition analysis paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue analysis paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Late written assignments will be docked one full grade for each day late (i.e. an A- paper would become a B-). All written assignments are due at the beginning of class. For the purposes of this policy, a day is defined as a 24-hour period beginning at the start of class (i.e. 9:30 am). A written assignment due on a Tuesday at 9:30 am will be counted one day late if submitted at 12 pm and two days late if submitted at 4 pm on Wednesday.

Tardiness and unexcused absences will lower your grade for class participation. Of course, if you are sick, especially with a fever, you should stay home. Please notify me as soon as possible to be granted an excused absence. If you have a medical or personal emergency that affects your ability to be present in class and complete your work, please contact your adviser.

Grading scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 and below</td>
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Technology in the classroom
Computers and other devices may not be used for anything other than note-taking or viewing assigned readings. Students who use their computers for anything other than approved activities or whose computer or device use is distracting to other students or the instructor will lose the privilege of using their computer or device in the class. The determination of disruptive computer or device use is at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Students participating in non-course related activities during class, including but not limited to inappropriate use of computers or cell phones, work for other classes, and excessive side conversations, will be marked absent for the day.

Communicating with the instructor
You are always welcome at my office hours without an appointment, and I available to make appointments at other times. Most students find email the most convenient way to communicate with me between class meetings. I check email regularly during business hours, but generally do not read email in the evenings and on weekends. Please anticipate a twenty-four hour response time for emails sent on weekdays, although I will usually respond more promptly. Likewise, you are expected to check your UWM email regularly, as it is the primary way for the university and your instructors to contact you outside of class.

Field Trips
Four field trips are scheduled for this class. Details will be distributed later in the semester.

- September 18th – Milwaukee Public Museum tour with Dawn Scher Thomae, Curator of Collections/Senior Collections Manager
- October 2nd – Haggerty Museum of Art tour with Lynne Shumow, Curator for Academic Engagement
- October 23rd – Milwaukee Art Museum tour with Lisa Sutcliffe, Curator of Photography and Media Arts
- **FRIDAY** November 16th – Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, transportation provided by the Holocaust Education Resource Center (Milwaukee)

Schedule of Classes
All readings are to be read in advance of the meeting for which they are assigned.

Sept. 4  Intro to the course

Sept. 6  Art museums

Sept. 11  Anthropology museums
Sept. 13  History museums

Sept. 18  Milwaukee Public Museum tour with curator of anthropology Dawn Scher Thomae
**MEET AT THE MPM AT 9:15 AM**
Note: There are two files on D2L – one for each chapter assigned.

Sept. 20  The Museum Effect

Sept. 25  Collecting and collectors

Sept. 27  Museum education

Oct. 2  Haggerty Museum of Art tour with curator Lynne Shumow
**MEET AT THE HMA AT 9 AM**

Oct. 4  Non-Western models

Oct. 9  Case study – National Palace Museum

Oct. 11  Milwaukee Art Museum – history

Oct. 16  Milwaukee Art Museum renovations
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Note: there are four short readings.

Oct. 18

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Oct. 23

San Quentin Project exhibition tour with curator Lisa Sutcliffe
MEET AT THE MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM AT 9:30 AM
Reading TBA

Oct. 25

Case Study – National Museum of the American Indian

Oct. 30

Library research instruction
Meet at Golda Meir Library in Library Instruction Room A

Nov. 1

Collection Management

Nov. 1

The Milwaukee Model: Envisioning the Role of the Arts in Criminal Justice Reform
Keynote conversation between Elizabeth Hinton and Christian Viveros-Faune 7:30 pm – Weasler Auditorium, Marquette University Campus

Nov. 2

The Milwaukee Model: Envisioning the Role of the Arts in Criminal Justice Reform Artist-led panels and discussion, 10 am – 4 pm, Lubar Auditorium, Milwaukee Art Museum
Attend at least one session on Friday or the keynote address Thursday night

Nov. 6

Physical space of the museum

Research proposal due

Nov. 8

Class cancelled due to symposium and instructor conference presentation.
Nov. 13  Case Study – Fred Wilson

Nov. 15  Class cancelled due to field trip.

Nov. 16  Field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Memorial Museum in Skokie
Transportation will be provided by the Holocaust Education Resource Center. More details to be announced. Plan to be away from campus for several hours.

Nov. 20  Tangible Things
Read the introduction to the chapter and two of the four case studies.
Issue paper due

Nov. 22  NO CLASS – Thanksgiving recess

Nov. 27  UWM Mathis Art Gallery tour with gallery curator Leigh Malick
Meet at the gallery in Mitchell Hall 170

Nov. 29  African Art in Western Museums

Dec. 4  Religious Objects in Museums
Note: there are three files on D2L, one for each chapter.

Dec. 6  Popular History

Dec. 11  Discussion of museum visits

Dec. 13  Current issues – Museum magazine
Reading TBA
Research papers due