Museum Studies

Chair, Department of Anthropology
• James Enloe (Anthropology)

Coordinator, Museum Studies
• Russell Ciochon (Anthropology/Pediatric Dentistry)

Undergraduate certificate: museum studies
Faculty: http://www.uiowa.edu/~mstudies/MSContact.htm
Web site: http://www.uiowa.edu/~mstudies/

Museum studies has a long history at the University of Iowa, with courses offered continuously since 1910. Iowa's museum studies students have become directors, curators, educators, and exhibit specialists in museums throughout the country.

Museums embrace every aspect of human experience. Iowa's Museum Studies Program reflects this multiplicity, offering courses related to many fields, including American studies, anthropology and archaeology, art, biology, business, communication studies, earth and environmental sciences, elementary and secondary education, English, world languages, history, and library and information science.

Instructors for museum studies courses reflect the program's interdisciplinary nature. They include faculty members from anthropology, art and art history, business, history, law, library and information science, and other related fields. The University archivist for University of Iowa Libraries is an affiliated faculty member of the Museum Studies Program, as are the collections management specialists for the University's Museum of Art, Museum of Natural History, and Old Capitol Museum.

The Museum Studies Program is administered by the Department of Anthropology.

Undergraduate Program of Study
• Certificate in Museum Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences students who are interested in museum studies may earn the certificate, or they may use the individualized plan of study track in the interdepartmental studies major to create a museum studies concentration relevant to their academic and professional interests.

Certificate

The Certificate in Museum Studies requires 18 s.h. The program provides a broad foundation of knowledge increasingly valued in the museum field.

The certificate is open to current University of Iowa undergraduate students and to all individuals who hold a bachelor's degree and are not enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.

Museum studies courses introduce students to the spectrum of museum endeavors, from organization and mission planning to institutional histories and current developments in the field. Most courses developed by the program offer hands-on experience in exhibition planning and design, collection management, educational programming, community development, and administration.

A major in one of the natural sciences (e.g., biology, geoscience), anthropology, science education, art history, American studies, or history is recommended for students preparing for museum careers.

Students may count a maximum of 6 s.h. completed for a major, a minor, or another certificate offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences toward the Certificate in Museum Studies.

Work for the certificate consists of an introductory course, a minimum of four courses on specific museum studies topics, and an internship. Students must request permission from the coordinator of the museum studies certificate to use courses that are not included in the program, and the proposed course content and requirements must fit into one of the program's defined areas.

Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in work for the certificate.

The Certificate in Museum Studies requires the following course work.

INTRODUCTORY COURSE

Students should begin the certificate with MUSM:3001 Introduction to Museum Studies, which is prerequisite to some of the program's more advanced courses and is approved for the Social Sciences area of the General Education Program. The course provides a historical overview of museum development and function while introducing students to issues such as museum governance and financing, ethics and law, collection management, exhibition and educational programming, interpretation, and audience research.

MUSM:3001 Introduction to Museum Studies 3 s.h.

MUSEUM STUDIES TOPIC AREAS

Students complete a minimum of four courses in museum studies topic areas, choosing from the lists below. The areas are collection care and management; exhibition development and public education; history, theory, and culture; and museum administration and management. Students must select one course each from three of the four topic areas (9 s.h. total). They also must complete a fourth course (3 s.h.) from any of the four topic areas.

Collection Care and Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUSM:3003</td>
<td>Natural History Research Collections</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSM:3090</td>
<td>Topics in Museum Studies</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSM:3200</td>
<td>Collection Care and Management</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSM:4200</td>
<td>Advanced Collection Care and Management</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibition Development and Public Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUSM:3004</td>
<td>Exhibition Planning</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSM:3110</td>
<td>Learning in Museums</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

History, Theory, and Culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUSM:3120</td>
<td>Natural History Museums: A History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSM:3237</td>
<td>Politics of the Archaeological Past</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSM:4081</td>
<td>The Art Museum: Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Museum Administration and Management
MUSM:3080 Marketing, Promoting, Politicking 3 s.h.
MUSM:3100 Historic House Management and Preservation 3 s.h.
MUSM:3500 Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I 3 s.h.
MUSM:4150 Introduction to Grant Writing 3 s.h.

MUSEUM STUDIES INTERNSHIP
After completing at least 12 s.h. of the required course work above, students must complete the following internship, earning a minimum of 3 s.h.
MUSM:4080 Museum Internship arr.

The Certificate in Museum Studies coordinator works closely with students and affiliated faculty members to ensure that the internship provides students with the instruction and experience they need.

Facilities and Resources
Museum studies students have access to a wide variety of museums and related resources, including the following University of Iowa museums: the Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Art, the Old Capitol Museum, the Medical Museum, and the Athletics Hall of Fame.

The Museum Studies Program maintains close connections with a number of local, community-based museums and organizations, including the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, the African American Museum of Iowa, the Iowa Children’s Museum, and the Johnson County Historical Society.

The University of Iowa Collections Coalition, consisting of 19 collections and collection-support organizations, is an essential resource for the Museum Studies Program. It provides museum studies internships, directed study projects, opportunities for site visits, and volunteer experiences for students as well as guest speakers.

Courses
Introduction
MUSM:3001 Introduction to Museum Studies 3 s.h.
Overview of museum history, function, philosophy, collection, and curatorial practices; governance and funding issues; exhibition evaluation and audience studies; examples from Museum of Art, Museum of Natural History, Old Capitol Museum, and Medical Museum. GE: Social Sciences. Same as EDTL:3001, SIED:3001, ANTH:3001.

Collection Care and Management
MUSM:3003 Natural History Research Collections 3 s.h.

MUSM:3090 Topics in Museum Studies 1 s.h.
Systematic and analytic methods used for research in physical collections; tutorials in collection building, curation, and preservation; designed by members of the University of Iowa Collections Coalition. Same as EES:3090.

MUSM:3200 Collection Care and Management 3 s.h.
How a museum’s management policy relates to its administrative, legal, and ethical obligations to its collections; acquisitions, deaccessions, collection use, data standards, storage environment, health, safety, documentation. Same as EES:3200.

MUSM:4200 Advanced Collection Care and Management 3 s.h.
Builds on MUSM:3200; types and materials of museum objects and their care; storage and preservation of paper, books, photographs, works of art, electronic media, textiles, furniture, archaeological artifacts, and natural history specimens; collections project and hands-on practice in preservation techniques, enclosures, and supports; for students planning museum careers or professions that require care of collections. Prerequisites: MUSM:3200 or EES:3200. Same as EES:4200.

Exhibition Development and Public Education
MUSM:3004 Exhibition Planning 3 s.h.
Preliminary work for and process of developing museum exhibitions; history of exhibit design, evaluation, budgets, teams and team member roles, working with community and special interest groups, methods of production and display; students research a topic, choose artifacts and images, and create a narrative and exhibit script. Prerequisites: MUSM:3001.

MUSM:3110 Learning in Museums 3 s.h.
Exploration of the methodology of museum education; institutional objectives that facilitate learning in museum setting; exhibition and program development, didactic materials, and funding strategies. Prerequisites: MUSM:3001. Recommendations: good writing skills. Same as EDTL:3010.

History, Theory, and Culture
MUSM:3120 Natural History Museums: A History 3 s.h.
History of the natural history museum; origin, character, and evolution; anecdotes and personalities; how natural history museums influenced society and their continuing relevance to a technological world. Recommendations: at least one course in museum studies, such as MUSM:3001.
MUSM:3237 Politics of the Archaeological Past 3 s.h.
How control over management of material remains of the ancient past, and representations of that past, intersect with the identity of diverse groups, including archaeologists, indigenous peoples, national governments, collectors, ethnic minorities and majorities, museum curators; struggles for control of the archaeological past at different scales (artifacts, skeletal remains, sites, imagery, narratives) and in different regions of the world. Same as ANTH:3237.

MUSM:4081 The Art Museum: Theory and Practice 3 s.h.
Introduction to different aspects of art museums; emphasis on roles of art historians, especially curatorial practice; current and historical theories and practices of art exhibitions; varying debates of the politics of display; art museum professions; the many facets of art exhibition preparation; the University of Iowa Museum of Art collections. Same as ARTH:4081.

MUSM:4130 Museum Literacy and Historical Memory 3 s.h.
Concepts and methods for understanding the role of museums in shaping knowledge and collective memory of history; institutionally based exhibits and collections, historical markers and public monuments, public holidays and events, media and artistic works that interpret the past; how events, people, and civic ambitions are memorialized and how memories of them are shaped; appearance of museums and related practices in the non-Western world after 1850. Same as HIST:4130.

MUSM:4150 Introduction to Grant Writing 3 s.h.
Comprehensive training in grant proposal writing; basics of project development and management; core principles for writing small and large proposals to public and private funding sources; finer points of grant writing to increase competitiveness of future proposals and applications; for students with limited grant writing experience. Same as EALL:4130.

Directed Studies and Internship
MUSM:4050 Directed Studies and Projects arr.
Advanced readings in historical development, educational philosophy, programs, operations of museums; individual projects coordinated with programs, exhibits, or collections of campus and area museums. Prerequisites: MUSM:3001 or MUSM:3004 or MUSM:3200.

MUSM:4080 Museum Internship arr.
Working experience in functions, departments, programs of the sponsoring museum; relation to museum’s overall mission and museum field in general.

Museum Administration and Management
MUSM:3080 Marketing, Promoting, Politicking Contemporary Public Art 3 s.h.
How public art projects are conceived, created, and paid for; projects sponsored and funded by federal, state, and local governments and private businesses 1960 to present; projects’ operational structures, how artists are selected; Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Serra’s Tilted Arc, recent projects. Same as ARTH:3080.

MUSM:3100 Historic House Management and Preservation 3 s.h.
Management, preservation, interpretation, and basic operations of historic structures and the museums they serve.

MUSM:3500 Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I 3 s.h.