

Museum Studies Courses (MUSM)

MUSM Courses

This is a list of courses with the subject code MUSM. For more information, see Museum Studies (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) in the Catalog.

MUSM:2850 Museums and Social Justice 3 s.h.

Exploration of museums as institutions that frame social justice, promote equity of access through social bridging, and at times, address and challenge social ills directly through exhibits and programs; case studies and dialogue.

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 Stanley Museum of Art, Museum of Natural History, Old Capitol Museum, and Medical Museum. GE: Social Sciences. Same as ANTH:3001, EDTL:3001, SIED:3001.

MUSM:3003 Natural History Research Collections 3 s.h.

Techniques, methods, and issues specific to natural history research collections; practice in preparing and cleaning specimens; role of natural history specimens in modern scientific research. Recommendations: basic understanding of the diversity of plants and animals and natural history museum collections, MUSM:3001 or MUSM:3200, and BIOL:1411 or BIOL:1412; or other experience. Same as EES:3003.

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:3100 Historic House Management and Preservation 3 s.h.

Historic house museums make up more than half of all museums in the United States; focus on management, preservation, and interpretation of historic houses as sites of historic memory and public engagement.

MUSM:3105 Engaging Museum Audiences 3 s.h.

Effective audience engagement requires museums to meet visitors halfway; employing learning theories, knowledge of audience, and innovative examples from the field; students investigate a variety of approaches that are visitor-centered, interdisciplinary, and locally focused. Prerequisites: MUSM:3001.

MUSM:3115 Museum Education and Interpretation 3 s.h.

Examination of the educational role of museums; educational theory, audience development, teaching strategies, accessibility, and evaluation within museum context; community-engaged project and collaboration with museum to develop curriculum and educational resources. Same as EDTL:3115.

MUSM:3120 Museum Origins 3 s.h.

History of museums; origin, character, and evolution into content specific institutions; anecdotes and personalities; how museums influenced society and their continuing relevance to a technological world.

MUSM:3125 Museums in a Digital World 3 s.h.

Digital technologies streamline internal museum processes while exponentially increasing the capacity of individuals to engage with museum collections; explores the digitized strategies and systems that democratize access and enhance museum visitor experiences.

MUSM:3131 Museum Evaluation and Visitor Studies 3 s.h.

Students explore evaluation theory, methodologies, and practical application through case studies and hands-on activities from all types of museum experiences (e.g., programs, exhibitions, wayfinding, interpretive technology) from both staff and visitor perspective. Prerequisites: MUSM:3001.

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:3215 The Museum of Today and Tomorrow: How Museums Enhance the K-12 Classroom 3 s.h.

What do museums have to offer teachers? How are they relevant to social studies, math, English, and science teachers? Students are put in charge of answering these questions and build their knowledge about art and innovative teaching strategies in the K-12 classroom and museum, practice designing lessons around a work of art, and apply their knowledge about art and curriculum into interactive online modules; students work directly with art on campus in the Lindquist Art Collection in the College of Education and the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art. Same as EDTL:3215.

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, HIST:3137.

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

Operational and financial aspects of nonprofit management; mission and governance of organization; strategic planning for effective management, including finance, budget, income generation, fund-raising. Same as ENTR:3595, MGMT:3500, NURS:3595, RELS:3700, SSW:3500.

MUSM:4080 Museum Internship arr.

Work experience in functions, departments, and programs of the sponsoring museum related to museum's overall mission and museum field in general.

MUSM:4081 The American 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 Stanley Museum of Art collections. Same as ARTH:4081.

MUSM:4082 Distance Learning Museum Internship arr.

Work experience in functions, departments, and programs of the sponsoring museum related to museum's overall mission and museum field in general.

MUSM:4084 Museum Professionalism 1-3 s.h.

Opportunity to apply core concepts learned in other courses through an in-depth service learning experience within a museum; students complete a minimum of 40 hours per credit hour of primarily independent work for a museum or like organization under the supervision of a staff member and faculty advisor; development of a digital portfolio reflecting on project activities. Prerequisites: MUSM:3001.

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.

MUSM:4200 Museum Object Preservation 3 s.h.

Detailed study of specific types of museum objects, their materials, and care; topics include care, storage, and preservation of paper, books, photographs, works of art, electronic media, textiles, furniture, archaeological artifacts, and natural history specimens; students complete a curatorial project and gain hands-on practice in basic object cleaning and making enclosures and supports; for students planning museum careers or taking care of collections as part of their professional responsibilities. Same as EES:4200.

MUSM:4310 Slavery Museums, Memorials, and Statues in the United States, Europe, and the Global South 3-4 s.h.

Comparative study of museums, memorials, statues, performances, and artistic works that encapsulate the entangled history and memory of transoceanic slave trades and slavery in the United States, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe (France and the United Kingdom); critical tools to analyze public debates over politically charged monuments; exploration of transnational and political predicaments of the contemporary world; approaches include trauma theories, memory studies, history, postcolonial ecocriticism, cultural anthropology, heritage studies and museology, and Francophone cultural critique. Taught in English. Requirements: for 4 s.h. option—prior enrollment in FREN:3060 and FREN:3300. Same as FREN:4210, WLLC:4210.