

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY HIS 183 – SURVEY OF MUSEUM PRACTICES (3 CR.)

Course Description

Explores the role of the museum in society and traces the foundations upon which these public, cultural and educational institutions are built. Emphasizes the management and interpretation of historic properties and collections. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course surveys the function of the museum in society, the foundations upon which these public, cultural, and educational institutions are created, and their organizational structure. Particular focus will include museum management, administration, interpretation, and collection policy, as well as how museums pertain to historic preservation and public history.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Explain the evolution of past and current museum practices.
- b) Describe the standard of context, scholarship, and accessibility used in the organization and presentation of museum collections.
- c) Identify the basic the organization, functions, and practices of museums.
- d) Identify ethical issues in the philosophy of museums, their interpretation of the past and social role.
- e) Analyze museum exhibitions and public programming.

Major Topics to be Included

- a) Museum organization, management, and administration
- b) Collections management
- c) Exhibition planning, design, interpretation, and critique
- d) Museum audiences and communities
- e) Digitalization and technology
- f) Ethical responsibility