Museum and Gallery Operations
ART/ARTH 174A
Fall 2020

San José State University Department of Art & Art History
Instructor: Dr. Alena Sauzade
Office Location: Art Building, Room 129A
Email: alena.sauzade@sjsu.edu

Email is my preferred way of communicating with students; I typically check it many times each day, and will get back to you promptly.

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00 - 4:00 PM and by appointment
Class Days/Time: Thursday 3:00-5:45pm
Department Office: ART 116
Department Contact: art@sjsu.edu

Course Format: Online, Synchronous

Units: 3

Course website
You should visit this site often to be up to date with information. Log in and with your SJSUOne information for access.

Description

This course will introduce students to the various activities of museums and galleries, and to the responsibilities of those who develop and implement them. Practical information on museum technologies will be presented within a conceptual rubric that includes discussion of the changing role of museums in society and the political, ethical, and social issues facing museums today. Sessions will include lectures, discussions of the readings, and group activities.

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

* question, analyze, critique, and describe the various activities and responsibilities of museum and gallery personnel;

* identify issues challenging museums today;
* refer to the historical development of museums, including literature, key dates, philosophies, and major developments; and

* identify professional organizations, associations, periodicals, and other resources pertinent to museum work and museum-related research.

**Technology Requirements**

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students.

**Class Expectations**

While our course will be fully online, you will be expected to complete synchronous elements at the designated class time throughout the semester. This may include whole group meetings via Zoom, break out rooms, and participation in online discussions via Canvas. Only a few classes during the semester will not have a whole group meeting, and these are marked on the syllabus.

**Zoom Meetings:** Each class period will begin with a whole group check in via Zoom. Please log in several minutes prior to class time. I will be taking attendance at each session.

**Zoom Etiquette:** Please come to class prepared to participate in a group discussion.

- It is preferred, but not required that cameras be on and focused on your face.
- You should be dressed appropriately and refrain from eating, drinking, and cell phone use or other browsing activities during our sessions.

**Best Practices:**

- **Mute Your Microphone:** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- **Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions:** Find a quiet place to “attend” class, to the greatest extent possible.
  - Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
  - Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
- **Position Your Camera Properly:** Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking: You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).

Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds: If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

Recording:

Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission. Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor.

I will never record a class, discussion, lecture or other activity without asking your permission.

Submitting Assignments: All assignments need to be submitted on the course Canvas site by 9pm on the day that they are due. Late assignments will be docked points and anything over two weeks overdue will not be accepted unless you have made arrangements with the instructor.

Communication is Key

I understand completely that we are living and working during stressful, unprecedented times. Many of us are experiencing care responsibilities, altered living and working conditions, stress, and other pandemic related situations. Please remember that I am here for you and willing to work with you to make this semester successful. We all have our individual situations and needs, so please do not hesitate to reach out during office hours, via email, or Canvas chat to let me know how I can best accommodate and assist you.

University Policies: Per University Policy S16-9 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Grading

Student grades will be based upon the following:

Attendance and Participation: 15%
- This includes attendance at synchronous class sessions, participation in zoom meetings and breakout sessions, and participation in small weekly group and partner assignments.
- Not all sessions will be synchronous. Students needing to miss a synchronous session due to health or other concerns need to communicate with the instructor before the missed class to receive an alternate assignment.

**Reading Questions/Discussion Boards:**

- Readings are to be completed BEFORE the day of the lecture that addresses each topic.
- The instructor will post weekly reading and discussion questions in the class discussion boards.
- You will be responsible for 1 weekly 200 word minimum response post and 2 weekly 50 word minimum peer response posts.
- Posts will be evaluated on the quality and thoughtfulness of comments relative to the reading.

**Assignments:**

All three assignments are multi-step projects with individual and group components. More information on these assignments can be found on Canvas.

**Assignment 1: Design and Curate a Collections Exhibition**

**Due September 24th, 9pm**

- Explore an art museum collection (online) and curate an exhibition of a minimum of 10 works from that collection.
- Use class readings, lectures and videos to consider how you can “mine” the collection and present it from a new perspective. Consider past, present and future audiences of the museum. How can your exhibition create new ways of engaging with and understanding the collection?
- Create wall text and an accompanying brochure that explains the goals and objectives of the exhibition.

**Assignment 2: Pandemic Pandemonium**

**Due November 5th, 9pm**

- Option 1: Create a work of art or curate an art exhibition for “Pandemic Pandemonium,” a college wide initiative to address the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on culture and cultural practitioners.
- Option 2: Write an essay describing the effects of Covid-19 on local and or national arts institutions.

**Assignment 3: Art and Activism, Project Proposals for Social Change**

**Due Friday, December 11 14:45-17:00pm**
• Create a project proposal for a public art project or gallery exhibition that addresses contemporary concerns and has the goal of bringing about social change.
• This can be for a new project or exhibition, imagined by you, or an interpretation of an existing project.
• Create the following: a timeline, budget, list of institutional partners, grant proposal and project brief.

Final Portfolio Review: Friday, December 11 14:45-17:00pm 5%

• Students will turn in a completed portfolio of notes, in class activities and assignments on the designated “Final Exam Day”
• Students will meet individually with the instructor to discuss their portfolio

Guest Lectures: Extra Credit, up 10% of final grade

• You are encouraged to attend Tuesday Night and CSU wide lectures sponsored by the Natalie and James Thompson Gallery.
• To receive extra credit, you must be present at the lecture (rsvp for the Zoom code, I will note your attendance at the lecture) and write a 400 word response to the lecture.
• You have until the end of the semester to submit lecture write-ups to the instructor.

Course Grading Scale:

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Web Access to course materials
All materials such including: required reading, announcements, class assignments, deadlines, grades, etc. can be found on the Canvas Management system

Required Texts/Readings

- All course readings will be posted as PDF’s on Canvas or linked on the syllabus. All readings are required and will be discussed in class.

Library Liaison
Gareth Scott
email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu
phone: (408) 808-2094
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
4th Floor Administration Offices

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: http://www.sjsu.edu/art/ or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, art@sjsu.edu

Week by Week Schedule
(Subject to change)

Week 1: The Traditional Role of the Museum
August 20, 2020

- Class Overview
- Introductions
- Instructor presentation: The History of the Museum: How did collecting come about? The history of collections, exhibitions and from Classical Greece, through the Renaissance, and the Enlightenment.
- Personalize your Canvas and Zoom accounts

Homework
Explore:
  1. Museum Timeline (on Canvas)

Read :


Canvas:
- Discussion Board post
- Discussion board response

Week 2: How do museums and galleries operate? Identifying the major components
August 27, 2020

- Instructor presentation: Learn about art world roles: director, curator, preparator, registrar, coordinator, educator, archivist, docent.
- Consider different types of art institutions: museums, galleries, exhibition spaces.
- Break out rooms: Look at different types of exhibitions: retrospectives, group shows, auctions, and biennials.

Homework
Explore:

1. Interactive Timeline of the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Read:


Canvas:
Week 3: Collections Management and Collections Ethics
September 3, 2020

- Instructor Presentation: Learn about collections management practices in the US.
- Analyze the history of collecting and explore the SJSU art collection.
- Break out rooms: Look at collection plans and their relation to institutional missions.

Homework

Read:


4. Fraser, Andrea, “From the Critique of Institutions to an Institution of Critique” Institutional Critique: An Anthology of Artists’ Writings, Alexander Alberro and Blake Stimson, eds. MIT Press, 2009


Explore:

1. Fred Wilson “A Change of Heart”
2. Mark Dion working at the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
3. Yinka Shonibare CBE (RA): Art21

Canvas:

- Discussion Board post
- Discussion board response
Week 4: Museum Collections and Institutional Critique  
September 10, 2020

- Learn about the practice of institutional critique in the work of Yinka Shonibare, Mark Dion, Fred Wilson, Andrea Fraser.
- Consider ways in which institutions conceal histories of racism and inequality.
- Think about exhibition design and curatorial work in relation to efforts to expose traumatic and violent histories.

Homework
- work on Assignment #1
- Schedule appointment with the instructor

Canvas:
- Discussion Board post
- Discussion board response

Week 5: No In-Class Meeting  
September 17, 2020

- Work on Assignment #1
- Individual Check-in Appointment with the Instructor

Homework
Read:


Canvas:
Week 6: Inside the White Cube: The Rise of the Art Gallery
September 24, 2020

Assignment #1  Due on Canvas by 9pm

- Whole group meeting: Discuss and critically analyze the most influential trends in curating art since the 1960s
- Consider monographic, thematic and collection exhibitions, projects, performances, (new) media-based and interactive approaches.


- Note taking activity

Homework: TBD

Week 7: Artist Led Spaces, Galleries, and Collectives
October 1, 2020

- Look at the work being done by local non-profit and independent art spaces and collective.
- Analyze funding sources, missions and institutional structures for these spaces.

Homework:
Read:
1. A Snapshot of US Museums’ Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic,
2. Curatorial Dreaming in the Age of COVID-19

Explore:

Canvas:
- Discussion Board post
- Discussion board response

Week 8: Pandemic Pandemonium: Exhibition Design
October 8, 2020

- Whole Group: Discuss effects of the global pandemic on the art world.
- Break out rooms: Consider ways in which artists and curators can address current events in their work.
- Create a list of resources (grants, residencies, exhibitions) for artists during the pandemic

Homework
Read

Canvas:
- Discussion Board post
- Discussion board response

Week 9: Pandemic Pandemonium: Exhibition Components: Wall Text, Postcards, Catalogues
October 15, 2020

- Create text based supports for the class exhibition
- Whole Group: vote on exhibition topic and design
- Break out rooms: plan out exhibition components

Homework
- Work on assignment #2
- Peer review
- Check in with instructor

Canvas:
- Discussion Board post
- Discussion board response

Week 10: October 22, 2020
● No in-class meeting, work on Assignment #2
● Check in with instructor by appointment

Homework:
Read:

1. Tim Griffin, “Global Tendencies: Globalism and Large-scale Exhibition,” Artforum, XLII, No. 3, 1/1/03.


Canvas:
● Discussion Board post
● Discussion board response

Week 11:
Institutions and exhibitions of contemporary art: art fairs and biennials
October 29, 2020

● Instructor presentation: Explore international venues for art exhibitions such as biennials and art fairs.
● Break out rooms: Consider the role of international curators in the contemporary art world.

Homework

Read:


Canvas:
- Discussion Board post
- Discussion board response

******Vote******

Week 12: Feminist Art and Institutional Critique
November 5, 2020

Assignment #2 Due on Canvas by 9pm

- Consider institutional critique and systematic change through a case study of feminist art.
- Discuss debates within the feminist movement regarding intersectionality.

Watch:

2. “Guerrilla Girls Talk The History Of Art vs. The History Of Power.” The Late Show with Stephen Colbert

Explore:
1. WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

2. Judy Chicago, The Dinner Party, Brooklyn Museum
3. We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965–85, Brooklyn Museum

Homework

Read:


Listen:

1. “Decolonizing Culture: Anuradha Vikram and Vivian Sming” *Art Practical Radio*

Canvas:

- Discussion Board post
- Discussion Board response

Week 13: Decolonizing Culture

November 12, 2020

Forensic Architecture Virtual Lecture: 12pm

1. **Watch:** “Reimagining the Museum: Open Letters and a Decolonial Framework.” Hammer Museum, UCLA. Erin Christovale moderates a conversation between artist Jasmine Gregory, representative from Black Artists and Cultural Workers in Switzerland; art conservator LaStarsha McGarity, representative from Black Art Conservators; and Yesomi Umolu, director and curator of Logan Center Exhibitions at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago, and author of “On the Limits of Care and Knowledge: 15 Points Museums Must Understand to Dismantle Structural Injustice.”
2. Note taking activity
3. Group Discussion

Homework

Read:


Watch:

Krzysztof Wodiczko: Art21
Kara Walker: Art21

Canvas:

- Discussion Board post
- Discussion board response

Week 14: Public Projects and Social Practices

November 19, 2020

1. Class Discussion
2. Case Study: Canto III Project Proposal
3. Watch: Wafaa Bilal Lecture at the University of Minnesota (in 3 parts)
4. Break Out Rooms: Look at project proposals and sample grants
**Homework:**
1. Work on Assignment #3
2. Schedule appointment with the instructor

**Canvas:**
- Discussion Board post
- Discussion board response

**Week 15: Proposal Presentations**
**December 3, 2020**
- Present Assignment #3 to the class
- Peer review the assignment

**Final Examination: Friday, December 11 14:45-17:00pm**
- Assignment #3 Due
- Final Portfolio Due
- Individual Meetings with Instructor