

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**G57.2011 INTERNSHIP SEMINAR**

G57.2011  
SPRING 2009  
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Office Hours: Mondays, 3-5 and By Appointment

**Purpose**

Build on the first semester of the archives and public history courses in order to put into practice the theoretical concepts that shape the fields.

Focus on sites and venues where archives and public history actually take place, with presentations by professionals in the field.

Discuss the expanded role of the archivist and public historian in such areas as digital collections, museum exhibits, educational outreach projects, the creation of documentation, and program leadership.

Consider the ways in which archival and public history institutions address questions involving memory, heritage, and commemoration.

Complete a 120-hour practicum at a selected archival repository or public history site.

**Assignments**

For classroom sessions, post one question to blackboard that you would like the class to consider or discuss, based on the topics and readings for the week. Posting due on midnight the day before class (Sunday).

Prepare a finding aid or other agreed-upon public history project, with a substantial written component, based on the 120-hour practicum. Students will also maintain a descriptive log that provides a running commentary of your work at the practicum site, allows some dialogue with me concerning your experiences, and creates a permanent record of your practicum. Logs will be collected on: February 23, March 30, and May 11. Students will also present oral reports concerning their practicum experience on March 23 and May 4, as well as a mid-term and final self-evaluation that evaluates the practicum (due on March 23 and May 11 respectively).

## **ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

- February 9 - Blackboard Posting (National Archives)
- February 23 - First Installment of Log Due  
Blackboard Posting (Tenement House Museum)
- March 9 - Blackboard Posting (Digital History)
- March 23 - Oral Discussion and Reports Concerning Internships  
Mid-Term Self Assessments Due
- March 30 - Blackboard Posting (Cultural Institutions)  
Second Installment of Log Due
- April 6 - Blackboard Posting
- April 20 - Blackboard Posting
- May 4 - Internship Final Reports
- May 11 - Final Installment of Log, Final Self-Assessment, Final Project Due

**JANUARY 26 - ORIENTATION AND POPULAR HISTORY**

Required Reading: Andrew Ferguson, *Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe's America* (New York: Grove Press, 2007)

Discussion of practicum sites, forms, projects, evaluations. Also a discussion of Andrew Ferguson's book and the tension between academic history and public history.

**FEBRUARY 9 - NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

Class will be held at the National Archives – Northeast Region, 201 Varick Street. Guest presenter will be: Nancy Shader.

Required Readings: Bruce P. Montgomery, "Presidential Materials: Politics and the Presidential Records Act," *American Archivist* (Spring/Summer 2003), pp. 102-138 (available on *American Archivist* portion of Society of American Archivists web site at: <http://www.archivists.org>);

David A. Wallace, "Implausible Deniability: The Politics of Documents in the Iran-Contra Affair and Its Investigations," in Richard J. Cox and David A. Wallace, *Archives and the Public Good: Accountability and Records in Modern Society* (Westport: Quorum Books, 2002), pp. 91-114 [History Department, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Reading Room];

Larry J. Hackman, "Toward Better Policies and Practices for Presidential Libraries," *The Public Historian* (Summer 2006), pp. 13-36 and 165-183 [e-journal];

Shelley Davis, "The Failure of Federal Records Management: The IRS versus a Democratic Society," in Richard J. Cox and David A. Wallace, *Archives and the Public Good: Accountability and Records in Modern Society* (Westport: Quorum Books, 2002), pp. 115-134 [History Department, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Reading Room];

Familiarize yourself with the National Archives' web site at: <http://www.archives.gov>.

## **FEBRUARY 23 - HISTORY MUSEUMS, HISTORIC HOUSES, MEMORY**

Guest presenter will be: David Favalaro, Vice-President, Tenement House Museum in New York.

Required Readings: Cary Carson, "The End of History Museums: What's Plan B?," *The Public Historian* 30:4 (November 2008) (e-journal);

Ruth J. Abram, "Kitchen Conversations: Democracy in Action at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum," *The Public Historian* (Winter 2007) (e-journal);

Patrick H. Butler III, "Past, Present, and Future: The Place of the House Museum in the Museum Community," in Jessica Foy Donnelly, ed., *Interpreting Historic House Museums* (New York: Alta Mira Press, 2002) (History Department, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Reading Room);

Jessica Weglein Kraus, "Petticoats and Primary Sources: Lessons Learned Through Public History," *Journal of Archival Organization* 6:3 (2008), pp. 142-150 (History Department, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Reading Room)

Familiarize yourself with the websites for the Tenement House Museum at: <http://www.tenement.org>; the International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience at: <http://www.sitesofconscience.org>; and the National Security Archive at: <http://www.gmu.edu/~nsarchiv>.

Visit the Tenement House Museum at some point prior to the class and take one of the tours.

## **MARCH 9 - DIGITAL HISTORY**

Guest Presenter will be: Josh Greenberg, Director of Strategic Digital Initiatives for NYPL.

William G. Thomas, "Computing and the Historical Imagination," in Ray Siemens, John Unsworth, and Susan Schreibman, eds., *Companion to Digital Humanities* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004), available at: <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companion> (chapter five);

Daniel Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, "Exploring the History Web," in *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web* () available at the following link: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/exploring/>;

Daniel J. Cohen, Michael Frisch, Patrick Gallagher, Steven Mintz, Kirsten Sword, Amy Murrell Taylor, William G. Thomas III, and William J. Turkelm "Interchange: The Promise of

Digital History,” *Journal of American History*, pp. 452-488 (September 2008) (available as an e-journal);

Gordon Bell and Jim Gemmell, “A Digital Life,” *Scientific American* (February 2007) available as e-journal);

New York Public Library Digital Gallery, explore web site at the following URL:  
<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm>;

### **MARCH 23 - INTERNSHIP PROGRESS REPORTS**

Students will present oral progress reports concerning their internships, explaining their projects and discussing issues or problems that they have encountered thus far.

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### **MARCH 30 -- CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND HISTORY**

Guest Presenters: Francis Blouin, Director, The Bentley Library, University of Michigan; and Jeff Trask, Faculty Fellow, Department of Museum Studies at New York University

Readings will be provided. We will be reading and critiquing a selection from Professor Trask’s and Professor Blouin’s forthcoming books concerning museums and archives as cultural institutions.

Also, please read the following selections from: Francis X. Blouin and William G. Rosenberg, eds., *Archives, Documentation, and Institutions of Social Memory: Essays from the Sawyer Seminar* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2006) (History Department, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Reading Room):

Atina Grossman, “Out of the Closet and Into the Archives? German Jewish Papers”

Terry Cook, “Remembering the Future: Appraisal of Records and the Role of Archives in Constructing Social Memory”

Ann Laura Stoler, “Colonial Archives and the Arts of Governance: On the Content in the Form”

Rebecca J. Scott, “The Provincial Archive as a Place of Memory: Confronting Oral and Written Sources on the Role of Former Slaves in the Cuban War of Independence (1895-98)”

## **APRIL 13 - FUNDRAISING FOR ARCHIVES/PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECTS**

For this class, I would like you to review several web sites that constitute some of the major federal and foundation funding sources for archival, museum, and public history projects. Many contain good examples of successful grant projects, and we will be discussing them in some detail. One general source on foundations in general, and a site that you should also familiarize yourself with, is the one for The Foundation Center (<http://www.foundationcenter.org>). Other sites that I would like you to consult and familiarize yourself with include the following:

Institute for Museum and Library Services

(<http://www.imls.org>)

(make sure that you locate and read the application from the Maine Historical Society)

National Endowment for the Humanities

(<http://www.neh.gov>)

(make sure that you locate and read the application from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

National Historical Publications and Records Commission

(<http://www.archives.gov/nhprc>)

Mellon Foundation

(<http://www.mellon.org>)

Gladys Kreible Delmas Foundation

(<http://www.delmas.org>)

## **APRIL 20 - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, COPYRIGHT, COPYLEFT**

Guest Presenter: Howard Besser, Moving Image Archiving Program Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.

Readings: Siva Vaidhyanathan, *Copyrights and Copywrongs: The Rise of Intellectual Property and How It Threatens Creativity* (New York: New York University Press, 2001) (BOOK);

Lawrence Lessig, "Free Culture," 2002, presentation at O'Reilly Open Source Conference, available at: <http://randomfoo.net/oscon/2002/lessig/free.html>

**MAY 4 - INTERNSHIP PRESENTATIONS**

Roundtable class discussion and presentations concerning internship projects.

**MAY 11 - EMPLOYMENT ROUNDTABLE**

A panel of archivists and public historians from the New York metropolitan area will discuss job searches, employment prospects, and the archives/public history workplace.

**FINAL PROJECTS AND SELF-EVALUATIONS DUE**