

Public History Internship
HIST 506: 451 (3 credits) – Spring 2018
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Every other Tuesday beginning January 23, 6:10-7:30pm

Dr. O'Brassill-Kulfan
kobrassillkulfan@history.rutgers.edu
Van Dyck Hall – Room 213C

Course Description

This course provides students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field of public history, through a semester-long placement at a public history site. This experience is complemented and bolstered by classroom discussions about interns' placements and projects, as well as the field more broadly. Students will hear from guest speakers who represent a variety of relevant regional institutions and training backgrounds during in-class presentations about their education, public history experience, and current work in the field. Thus, this class serves as an instruction, training, and networking opportunity which connects students to the broader field and subfields in which they may be able to utilize their training in history and the humanities more generally.

Students will consider the variety of ways in which history is interpreted and practiced at and within different public history institutions and by a myriad of means. In so doing, questions of audience, stakeholders, impact, and purpose, will guide discussions about the dissemination of history to the public theoretically and practically, at students' internship placements as well as other forums.

Outcomes - History Department Learning Goals Met by this Course

Students who study History at Rutgers University can expect to develop an understanding of the following concepts:

- 1.) How individuals are shaped by their own past and by the past of their society and institutions;
- 2.) The role of human agency in bringing about change in society and institutions;
- 3.) The operation of large-scale forces responsible for causing change over time, such as politics, economics, and religion;
- 4.) The role of diversity and difference in shaping human experience;
- 5.) The nature of cause-and-effect relationships in human affairs as they have played out over time and as they continue to operate in the present.

Students who study History at Rutgers University can expect to develop the following practical skills:

- 1.) The ability to read and understand a variety of literary forms, including primary sources such as diplomatic correspondence, journalistic reports, and private papers, as well as secondary sources written in academic prose;
- 2.) The ability to analyze information effectively and to construct cause-and-effect relationships from disparate data sources;
- 3.) The ability to write persuasively and communicate effectively;
- 4.) The ability to work independently and to conduct independent research.

Accomplishing these goals requires hard work and perseverance. Students who make a serious commitment to the discipline should find, however, that in addition to acquiring valuable concepts and skills they will also develop an appreciation for History that will continue after their formal education has been completed.

Required Texts

Required readings have been uploaded to Sakai under Resources. Please consult each week's reading assignments on the syllabus, and then access them on Sakai in advance of our meetings so that you're able to participate in class discussion.

Assignment and Grading Overview

- **Journal Entries: 50 points - 25% of final grade**
 - Students will write about their internship experiences in a journal which will be submitted to the instructor on the day of each class meeting. Journal entries should describe the projects the student is working on in their placement, as well as connections with public history theory and methods that they've learned about as they are experienced on-site and read about in the assigned readings, questions and concerns that come up throughout the course of their internship, and general overall responses to their placement. **Hard copies due by the end of each class meeting (e.g. biweekly throughout the semester).**
- **Internship Completion: 130 points - 65% of final grade**
 - See descriptions of internship requirements for more information about service hours and expectations. *All hours and coursework must be completed by the last day of the semester.*
- **Final Paper on Internship Experience: 20 points - 10% of final grade**
 - The final grade for this course will be a reflective paper on the internship experience, recapitulating what was learned, experienced, and what the student will take away from their training, **due on the last day of the semester.**