

Proposal for Reconfiguring the HA Curriculum
September 19, 2012

The museum field is never stagnant, and museum studies programs must change with the times in order to serve the profession and our students. After two years of meetings, discussions, and consultations involving faculty, alumni, non-alumni professionals, and current graduate students, the HA faculty propose to reconfigure the HA curriculum to

- better address our program learning goals
- more fully integrate digital applications into multiple courses
- integrate U.S. social and cultural history into multiple courses
- improve student performance, particularly in regard to Program and Graduate School learning goals
- ensure the continued success of our alumni in the rapidly changing museum field

Conceptually, our program will be divided into four categories, with the following courses falling into each category:

I. Leadership in Museums

HIS 5010 Leadership in Museums I: Administration of Historical Organizations

HIS 5011 Leadership in Museums II: Professional Development

In this sequence students will engage in intensive study and research into topics relating to the governance and management of historical sites, museums and archives, including historiography of museum studies, professional standards, personnel management, ethics, fund-raising, finances, and envisioning (the future, current trends, conflict between real and ideal, professional standards). They will create a professional portfolio, stay abreast of current issues in the museum field through electronic media, undertake projects that familiarize them with the professional organizations with which they will be involved in the field, and explore venues for professional development.

II. Material Life in Historical Perspective

HIS 5330 Material Life in America, 1600-Present

HIS 5050 History of American Architecture

In this sequence students will develop visual literacy, study and employ the theories of material evidence, consider the historiography of material culture studies, and examine American material culture and the built environment in historical context.

III. Curating Collections and Built Environments

HIS 5030 Introduction to Archival Methods

HIS 5060 Historic Preservation in the United States

HIS 5090 Care and Management of Historic Artifacts

In this sequence students will be immersed in the critique, practice, theory, and history of the management of archival and museum collections, and of the built environment. Topics include physical and intellectual control of collections, professional standards, planning, and digital applications relevant to curation.

IV. Interpreting for Public Audiences

HIS 5020 Historical Interpretation for Public Audiences

HIS 5040 Research Methods in Local History

HIS 5110 History Museum Exhibits I

HIS 5111 History Museum Exhibits II

Students will research, design and install an exhibit, and research, design, and present public programming. Topics include the history of museums and exhibits, historical interpretation, museum education, digital applications, public history, research methods in local history, project management, visitor studies, and the theories, principles and critiques of interpreting for the public.

The proposed schedule for the academic year is:

FALL SEMESTER

HIS 5010 Leadership in Museums I: Administration of Historical Organizations, 3 cr.

HIS 5110 History Museum Exhibits I, 3 cr.

HIS 5040 Research Methods in Local History, 3 cr.

HIS 5050 History of American Architecture, 3 cr.

HIS 5330 Material Life in American, 1600-Present, 3 cr.

Total credit hours: 15

SPRING SEMESTER

HIS 5011 Leadership in Museums II: Professional Development, 1 cr.

HIS 5020 Historical Interpretation for Public Audiences, 3 cr.

HIS 5030 Introduction to Archival Methods, 3 cr.

HIS 5060 Historic Preservation in the United States, 3 cr.

HIS 5090 Care and Management of Historic Artifacts, 3 cr.

HIS 5111 History Museum Exhibits, 3 cr.

Total credit hours: 16

SUMMER/ FALL

Internship in Historical Administration, 1-12 cr. hrs. (6 required)

Approved by History Dept. Curriculum Committee: Oct. 12, 2012

Approved by CAH Curriculum Committee: Nov. 7, 2012

Approved by CGS: