

Program Change Proposal

Date Submitted: 09/30/13 1:44 pm

HIST-GEM: Museum Studies Concentration

~~Museum Studies Concentration – 39 hours~~ Concentration in Museum Studies

~~Master of Arts in History (Museum Studies) and Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies~~

~~These options are intended for students planning to pursue professional careers in museums. In addition to the core requirement of substantive courses in history, the Museum Studies program includes intensive training in the theory and practice of museology. This innovative program is a collaboration between the Departments of History, Anthropology, and Art and Art History, the Missouri Historical Society and the St. Louis Mercantile Library. It is taught by a combination of professors and practicing professionals from St. Louis-area museums. Recognizing that the museums field is in a period of rapid change, the program is designed to train students for leadership in the emergence of a new paradigm of museology that focuses on relationships between museums and the people and communities that they serve.~~

~~For most students this will be a terminal master of arts degree, fully preparing graduates for immediate entry into museum careers in a variety of positions. While the core requirement focuses on history studies, the museological training is applicable to employment in any type of museum.~~

The MA in History with a concentration in Museum Studies prepares students for professional careers in museums, historic sites and societies, cultural agencies, and related organizations. The degree addresses pressing needs of museums and heritage institutions for the 21st century: collaboration and community engagement, digital media and new technologies, and diversity and cross-cultural training. The curriculum includes courses on the sociocultural, historical, and intellectual foundations of museums; the theory and practice of public history and cultural heritage; professional development and practicums for multiple museum career paths; qualitative and quantitative research methods; digital media; non-profit resource development; community-based research and history; the comparative and cross-cultural study of material culture; and a strong grounding in the methods, professional protocols, and modes of analysis in History.

The Departments of History; Anthropology, Sociology and Languages; Art and Art History; the Missouri History Museum; the St. Louis Mercantile Library; and other historic sites and museums collaborate to sustain this innovative program, taught by professors and practicing professionals from St. Louis-area museums, historic sites, and cultural institutions. The degree trains students to advance the new paradigm of museum work and public history that focuses on inclusivity and the relationships between institutions and the communities that they serve. Upon completion of the program, students are prepared for immediate entry into museum careers in a variety of positions

Admission Requirements

~~Applicants wishing to enter the~~ Prospective students for the Master of Arts in History with a concentration in Museum Studies ~~concentration~~ must apply specifically for ~~that concentration~~ this program on the graduate application. ~~successful~~ Successful application for the ~~general~~ M.A. ~~program in history in History~~ does not automatically provide access to the Museum Studies program. Applications for the Master of Arts in History with a concentration in Museum Studies ~~concentration~~ will be accepted only for the fall semester. Because of the prescribed sequence of course work, no midyear entry into the program will be allowed.

In addition to the general criteria of the Graduate School, applicants for the Museum Studies concentration must meet several additional criteria of the Department of History and the museum studies program. Applicants' undergraduate studies need not have been in history, but they **Prospective students** must demonstrate high academic potential. ~~Normally~~**Typically**, the ~~history~~ **History** department admits only students with **at least** a 3.2 grade point average in their undergraduate major; most successful applicants have higher grades. **An undergraduate major in History is not required.** Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation, preferably from former teachers and/or employers, and a sample of their written work. ~~The sample may or may not be academic work, and length is not a consideration. Besides these departmental requirements, applicants~~ **Applicants** must **submit also complete** the Museum Studies Supplemental Application. ~~The supplemental application, which~~ includes a statement of **career** intent ~~for pursuit of a museum career.~~

~~The departmental Graduate Committee and the director of the museum studies program will base their admissions~~ **Admissions** decisions **are** upon the undergraduate transcript, the letters of recommendation, ~~and~~ the sample of written work, ~~and the supplemental application.~~

Applications ~~for the museum studies program~~ must be received by the university no later than ~~March 4~~ **January 15.**

Program Requirements (39 hours)

All candidates for the M. A. in History with a Concentration in Museum Studies must **complete the following coursework:**

<u>HIST 6001</u>	The Historian's Craft	1-3
<u>HIST 6131</u>	Museum Origins and Evolution	
Plus two of the following courses:		
<u>ANTHRO 6139</u>	Practicum In Exhibit & Program Development	
<u>ART ED 5588</u>	Museum Education and Visitor Research	
<u>HIST 6130</u>	Collections Management and Registration	
<u>HIST 6132</u>	Digital Video for Museums and Community History	
<u>HIST 6133</u>	Museums and History in the Digital Age	
<u>HIST 6134</u>	History Curatorship	5
<u>HIST 6135</u>	Foundations Of Museology-I	3
<u>HIST 6136</u>	Foundations In Museology-II	3
<u>HIST 6137</u>	Effective Action In Museums	3
<u>HIST/ANTHRO 6137/ART HS 6037</u>	Museum Organization and Operations	

~~These courses are cross-listed under the same numbers in the Anthropology Department and the Art and Art History Department. Students may enroll through the department of their choice. All candidates must also complete ART ED 5588 Museum Education and Visitor Research and ANTHRO 6139 Practicum in Exhibit and Program Development. Together, these courses provide a solid foundation in the theory and history of museology and in practical skills for museum work. As a final requirement, candidates must complete HIST 6138 or ANTHRO 6138. This exit project will be the capstone demonstration of competence in museum studies. The specific nature of this demonstration will be customized to the interests and career aspirations of each student. It may take the form of a traditional thesis, an exhibit project, or some other appropriate form, as approved in advance by the candidate's advisory committee~~

~~In addition to these requirements, all candidates must complete 15 hours of elective history course work, with no more than 6 hours of history at the 3000 level. Museum Studies students will take courses distributed in any proportion between the fields of "United States to 1865" and "United States Since 1865." Both the director of the Museum Studies Program and the graduate director of the History Department must approve in advance any exceptions to this requirement (e.g., selections of courses from another field, such as European or African history).~~

Students must also complete an additional 20-22 elective credits as approved by the Director of Museum Studies, of which at least 12 credits must be History courses. Students may choose electives from the preceding list, the History department curriculum, and a range of offerings in Anthropology, Sociology, and Languages; Art and Art History; Media Studies; and Nonprofit Management and Leadership. Courses address such topics as: community-based research, public archaeology, cultural resource management, quantitative and qualitative research methods, the history of visual arts in American museums, arts and visual resources management, material culture in the home, media law and ethics, documentary filmmaking, grant-writing, American philanthropy, and area and period studies. A maximum of six credits may be at the 3000 level.

Candidates conclude the degree with an exit project or thesis represented by the course numbered HIST 6138, ANTHRO 6138 or ART HS 6038 (5 credits.) This capstone project will demonstrate competence in museum studies. The specific form will be customized to the interests and career aspirations of each student, as approved in advance by the candidate's advisory committee.

In addition to these requirements, candidates for the MA in History with a concentration in Museum Studies are required to demonstrate either oral or written proficiency in one second language (in addition to English). Proficiency at a level that enables the candidate to conduct research must be demonstrated by passing either an oral or written test, whichever is most appropriate for the candidate's research methodology, in a language that is relevant to the candidate's chosen specialization. The test will be designed through consultation with the candidate and the faculty of the Languages Program.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
S002600	Louis Lankford	6752	No
S002450	Susan Brownell	6451	No
Rationale	These changes correspond to the imminent appointment of a new Director of Museum Studies (already under contract for 2014)and the new orientation of the program under her leadership.These changes correspond to the imminent appointment of a new Director of Museum Studies (already under contract for 2014)and the new orientation of the program under her leadership.These changes correspond to the imminent appointment of a new Director of Museum Studies (already under contract for 2014)and the new orientation of the program under her leadership.These changes correspond to the imminent appointment of a new Director of Museum Studies (already under contract for 2014)and the new orientation of the program under her leadership.		