



History 389A: Public Histories Local and Global

CRN: 11973

Winter Term 2020
Tuesdays 2:30 – 5:30pm

Instructor: Dr. Y. Railton

Office: Clearihue D221

E-mail: yrailton@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30 – 5:30pm or by appointment

Course Website: **TBC**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an exciting opportunity to look at how history is written, taught, experienced, displayed, and reenacted for a popular audience outside university classrooms through museum exhibits, video games, pod casts and more. Through lectures, guest speakers and discussion groups, this course will introduce students to the diverse field of public history: its definitions, its practitioners, its methods and its debates. We will circle the globe with our readings, examining public history projects in several different countries. Students will also get the chance to experience public history at the local level: we will take an historical walking tour through Victoria's streets and visit Emily Carr House and the Royal British Columbia Museum.

EVALUATION

Assignment	Value	Due Date
1. Critical Review Assignment Proposal	5%	February 4, 2020
2. Critical Review Assignment	25%	March 24, 2020
3. Discussion Group Participation	10%	On discussion dates
4. Discussion Group Questions and Responses	10%	On discussion dates
5. Final Project Proposal	10%	March 10, 2020
6. Final Project	40%	March 31, 2020

STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS 1, 2, 5 and 6 TO PASS THE COURSE

SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Session 1: Course Introduction

Readings: de Groot, *Consuming History*, xv-xvi, 1-35; Faye Sayer, *Public History: A Practical Guide* (London: 2015), 1-19.

Session 2: Curating Public Histories - Museum Exhibitions

Readings: Woods, Thomas A. "Museums and the Public: Doing History Together." *The Journal of American History* 82, no. 3 (1995): 1111-1115.

Session 3: Class visit to the Royal British Columbia Museum

Session 4: Historic Sites and Dark Tourism

2:30pm – Lecture
3:30pm – DISCUSSION GROUP: Group A
4:30pm – DISCUSSION GROUP: Group B

Readings: TBC

Session 5: Displaying Indigeneity – Museums and Archives as Colonial Spaces

****Critical Review Proposals due****

2:30pm – Lecture

3:30pm – DISCUSSION GROUP: Group B

4:30pm – DISCUSSION GROUP: Group A

Readings: Gloria Jean Frank, "That's my dinner on display": A first nations reflection on museum culture", *BC Studies* 125/126 (Spring 2000): 163-178; Alan Hoover, A response to Gloria Frank, *BC Studies* 128 (Winter 2000/2001): 65-69; Wendy Wickwire, A response to Alan Hoover, *BC Studies* 128 (Winter 2000/2001): 71-74

Session 6: Public Remembering – Memorials and Monuments

Lecture and **ASSIGNMENT WORKSHOP**

Readings: de Groot, 290-309; Sayer, *Public History*, 23-34; Jonathan Jones, "War Memorials have failed," *The Guardian*, 9 December 2016 (<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/jonathanjonesblog/2016/dec/09/war-memorials-have-failed-peter-eisenman-holocaust>)

Session 7 – NO CLASS READING BREAK

Session 8: History on Foot

Class walking tour with *Discover the Past* and visit to Emily Carr House
(*Meet at Emily Carr statue, Government and Belleville corner, at 3:00pm SHARP*)

Readings: de Groot, 105-133, 279-289; "Tips for Developing a Walking Tour", <http://www.janeswalkottawa.ca/tips-tools/development-tips>; "Emily Carr", http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/expositions-exhibitions/emily_carr/en/index.php

Session 9: History on Film

Lecture and film viewing

Readings: de Groot, 165-182, 219-261

Session 10: Playing at History: Video Games and VR

2:30pm: Lecture
3:30pm: DISCUSSION GROUP: Group A
4:30pm: DISCUSSION GROUP: Group B

Readings: de Groot, 87-104, 152-163
Games: Please play some of the (free version of) WWI video game *Valiant Hearts*
3D Printing: [Conserving by copying: 3D Printing Tutankhamun's Tomb video](#)

****Final Project Proposals Due****

Session 11: Historic Story-Telling: Podcasts, and Beyond

2:30pm: Lecture
3:30pm: DISCUSSION GROUPS: Group B
4:30pm: DISCUSSION GROUPS: Group A

Podcasts: BBC [History Weekly](#) or [BBC Radio 4 archives](#) 'In Our Time'

Session 12: Careers in Public History

****Critical Reviews Due****

2:30pm – Guest Panel
3:30pm – DISCUSSION GROUP: Group A
4:30pm – DISCUSSION GROUP: Group B

Readings: Sayer, *Public History*, Conclusion, 23-34; Shelley Bookspan, "Something Ventured, Many Things Gained: Reflections on Being a Historian-Entrepreneur," *The Public Historian* 28:1 (February 2006): 67-74; "Memories to Memoirs" website (<http://memoriestomemoirs.ca/>)

Session 13: Public History Projects Exhibition and Presentations