

**Louisiana State University**  
**School of Library and Information Science**  
**LIS 7705, Introduction to Museum Management**  
**Spring 2020**

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Catalog Description : Introduction to the purpose, functions, organization and management of museums.

Course Description : This course is an overview of museum studies that introduces students to the purpose, functions, organization and management of museums. Students will gain an understanding of museum issues in the 21st century across the spectrum of museum types. Key themes emphasized in the course are management of museums' collections, including ethical and legal issues, policies, documentation, interpretation, and the relationships between museum mission and collection management, education, and sustainability.

Course Objectives: Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and organization of museums.
- Discuss critically the role and relationship among the museum's primary functions of collecting, preserving, and interpreting.
- Discuss current issues in the philosophy of museums, museum missions, representing the past, interpreting cultural objects, interpreting the biological and physical world, and the role of museums in society.
- Identify key ethical issues in museum work that relate to collections, preservation, interpretation, and social justice education.
- Describe basic administrative operations, including budgeting, development, planning, facilities management, public dimension, governance, evaluation, and leadership.
- Describe the basic operations for museum collection management
- Describe key museum education responsibilities.
- Locate the basic museum studies literature, principal museum organizations, and museum reference sources including on-line resources.
- Identify personal goals and aspirations as a museum professional
- **On paper, create and develop a mock museum, of your choice, using the information that you have learned. (More information is provided below)**

Course requirements: To achieve these objectives, students are expected to:

- Commit at least 9 hours per week to this course in some combination of readings, watching videos, visiting websites, and other assignments as specified in the syllabus.
- Read the assigned texts and selected items from the professional literature
- Complete assignments as outlined in the syllabus

Grading Policies

A grade of B/B+ indicates expectations have been met. Grades of A-/A/A+ indicate expectations have been exceeded. Grades of B- or lower indicate expectations have not been met.

Grades will be based on:

- |                                |                |                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| • Museum Visits and Interviews | 10 points each | 20 points        |
| • Written Assignments          | 10 points each | 100 points       |
| • Final Project: Mock Museum   |                | <u>80 points</u> |
|                                |                | 200 points       |

The student's final grade will be based on the percentage of 200 total points earned.

All of the assignments throughout the class will be building toward the final project, which is described below:

Your mock museum should include all the key elements that you have learned throughout this course. The final paper describing your mock museum should be no less than 2000 words and should include your brochure. If you are smart you will organize and combine the different weekly assignments into your presentation. If you received high grades on your weekly assignments, then you know that it doesn't need much improvement. You have done most of the work already and you can now have fun finalizing your mock museum.

The final project is due Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, before 9:00 am

Grading Scale

99-100%	A+
93-98%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C

70-72% C-

### Academic Integrity

All work submitted for this course must be your own work. In accordance with University policy, academic misconduct will not be tolerated. All students are required to know and abide by the University's Policy for Academic Integrity and the LSU Code of Student Conduct. A copy of these documents may be found at: <http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs>

### Information for Students with Disabilities

LSU policy requires a student who claims disability status to make a formal request for accommodation through the Office of Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, phone 225-578-5919. This office provides the necessary evaluation and recommendations to ensure full participation in the course. For more information, go to <http://www.lsu.edu/disability>.

### Class Materials

The required textbooks are:

Ambrose, Timothy and Crispin Paine, *Museum Basics*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

Anderson, Gail, *Reinventing the Museum*, Second Edition (2004)

Lord, Gail Dexter and Barry Lord, *The Manual of Museum Management*, Second Edition (2009)

Merritt, Elizabeth, *National Standards and Best Practices for U.S. Museums*, Washington, DC: American Association of Museums, (2008)

### **Assignment Due Dates:**

January 28	Written Assignment: Reflecting on Museums
February 4	Museum Visit & Interview
February 11	Written Assignment: Mock Museum Governance, Staff, and Mission
February 18	Written Assignment: Mock Museum Target Audient, Admission, Hours
February 27	Written Assignment: Reflective Essay
March 5	Written Assignment: Two-page proposal for Final Project
March 12	Written Assignment: Incorporating the Visitors' Bill of Rights
March 19	Museum Visit & Interview
April 2	Written Assignment: Mock Museum Brochure
April 9	Written Assignment: Mock Museum Accessibility
April 16	Written Assignment: Museum Exhibits and Displays
April 23	Written Assignment: Finances, Donors
May 5	Final Project: Mock Museum