

HA3F2-30 Histories, Theories and Practices of Museums and Galleries

26/27

Department

SCAPVC - History of Art

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Richenda Roberts

Credit value

30

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module focuses on art museums and galleries. The first part takes a historical and theoretical view of galleries and museums, introducing students to a variety of permanent collections, exhibition spaces, concepts of display and interpretation. Local and global collections as well as those associated with the canon of Western Art History will take prominence, providing not only a contextualization of the specific host collection on which the students will concentrate in their assignment, but also introducing an approach to the artwork as a displayed object and its interpretations. The second part provides an insight into museum departments, their working roles with emphasis on teamwork and developing related skills. Areas examined will include curating, interpretation, outreach and learning, administration and finance, publicity and marketing.

Module aims

The module aims to develop students' understanding of the histories, theories and practices of museums and galleries. In doing so the module will provide an understanding of a variety of permanent collections, exhibition spaces, concepts of display and interpretation in a historically developing trajectory. Students will work with local and global collections as well as those associated with the canon of Western Art History to engage in theories and debates about

museum and gallery practices, the processes of exhibition organization, methods used to interpret and display art objects, audience diversity and engagement. This will allow students to undertake critical scrutiny of the histories, theories and practices of museums and galleries, the interpretation and display of art objects, explore the engagement of diverse audiences, comprehend work roles and teamwork involved in organizing exhibitions.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Histories, theories and practices of museums and galleries. Critical thinking in relation to museum and gallery activities. Permanent collections, exhibition spaces, concepts of display and interpretation. Audience diversity and engagement. Local and global collections as well as those associated with the canon of Western Art History. Insight into museum departments, their working roles with emphasis on teamwork and developing related skills. Curating, interpretation, outreach and learning, administration and finance, publicity and marketing.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to critically analyse museum and gallery histories and theories.
- Critically appraise exhibition practices in specific local, national, and international museum and gallery collections.
- Develop curatorial skills pertinent to the research, interpretation and display of art objects.
- Create an original exhibition project, comprising of a cogent argument based on critical analysis, well-researched and clearly organised evidence, and appropriate examples.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

Positions understanding of histories, theories and practices of museums and galleries within a historically developing trajectory • have a nuanced comprehension of local and global collections, exhibition organization, museum and gallery interpretation and display methods, the diversity and engagement of their audiences • be able to make connections and describe the relationships between theories, the historical development of exhibitions, current museum and gallery practices, interpretation, display and audience engagement. • Sophisticated visual and critical analysis of museums and galleries and their practices and the outcomes.

Transferable skills

Present an argument, initiate and sustain group discussion through intelligent questioning and debate at an appropriate level • ability to undertake research and to write up the results in the form

of a well-structured argument at an appropriate level • familiarity with essential ICT skills • ability to collaborate effectively with others • show understanding of diverse viewpoints • ability to find, select, organize and synthesize evidence • ability to formulate a sustained argument • think conceptually and independently at an appropriate level • bibliographical skills at an appropriate level

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 4 hours (12%)
External visits	1 session of 4 hours (1%)
Private study	260 hours (87%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Required and recommended reading for seminar presentation and research for written assessment.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Exhibition Proposal Presentation	10%		No
Presentation using PowerPoint of the student's planned virtual exhibition.			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
A Virtual Exhibition and Proposal	90%		No
This assessment has two related components. First, a 4000-word Exhibition Proposal explaining the exhibition rationale and detailing its planning processes, including the chosen theme, research and how the project might be informed by consideration of objects' display needs and promotion of audience diversity. Second, a PowerPoint of 1000-words acting as a virtual exhibition of five artworks chosen from a pre-allocated local collection, which have been researched in relation to the student's exhibition theme. The PowerPoint should be comprised of six slides. The first one being an introduction to the exhibition theme (250 words). Then five further slides, one each for the five chosen artworks. Each slide comprising of a 150-word, research-based, interpretation label and an image of the relevant artwork.			
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback and dedicated feedback tutorials.

Availability

Pre-requisites

N/A

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of UHAA-V401 Undergraduate History of Art