HIST 393: Public History
Messiah College

Spring 2016
instructor: James LaGrand
M W F
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1:50-2:50 p.m.
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DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:
The field of public history has emerged within the history profession over the last several decades and continues to increase in popularity in part because it has helped historians answer two questions that perpetually face them. First--How can historians find fulfilling careers in positions in which they can use their skills and training? And second--How can historians communicate and share developments within the field of history with a wider public beyond that found in college classrooms and at academic conferences? Historians should always be working toward finding answers to these two questions, and many have found the field of public history provides a unique opportunity to do so. Developments in recent years have demonstrated that the public is interested in history and continues to think about it and consume it--but not necessarily as presented by academic historians. Museums, historical theme parks, living re-enactments, television documentaries, and the like have enjoyed great popularity in recent years. Yet too often, historians in colleges and universities have allowed themselves to become ignored and irrelevant, even as history in general enjoys great popularity. Public history has the ability to improve this situation.

This course in public history will be run as a seminar--with a primary focus on reading, independent work, presentations of independent work, and discussion. Students will enrich the course by regularly contributing ideas, understandings, and questions. The course will combine a discussion of theoretical issues with practical experiences; students will be introduced to many of the discussions and debates within public history, as well as be exposed to some different careers open to history majors outside of academia. Realistically, one course cannot address all of the facets of public history. After introducing ourselves to the field of public history, some of the topics in particular that will receive our attention include: public memory, oral history, museums, historic preservation, documentary film, and digital media. We will spend less time on other areas of public history: archival work, publishing and editing, historical fiction, business history, and public policy, among others. Regardless of students’ plans for the future, however, this course will present a brief, but hopefully profitable, survey of public history--whether as a foundation for later study and employment or as a means to becoming more enlightened and broad-minded historians, citizens, and individuals.

COURSE OBJECTIVES--FOR ALL HISTORY COURSES AT MESSIAH COLLEGE:
1. Historical Knowledge: Students have a better historical understanding of political, social, cultural, economic, and religious practices and structures.
2. Historical Methods: Students demonstrate an understanding of historical causation, an ability to conduct basic historical analysis of primary and secondary sources, and an ability to communicate that analysis in effective written and oral communication.
3. Historical Interpretation: Students use texts and other cultural resources to make sense of the past, understand ways in which the past influences the present, and consider how the present influences our study of the past.
4. Historical Convictions: Students become more thoughtful, curious, and empathetic due to their evaluation of the historical complexity of human identities, cultures, and societies from the perspective of Christian faith.
REQUIRED READINGS:

Online readings listed below.

REQUIREMENTS:
read all assigned readings by dates indicated in schedule
participate regularly in class discussions, including oral presentations
subscribe to H-PUBLIC discussion network [http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~public/] and regularly follow discussions there
regularly follow discussions at Public History Commons [http://publichistorycommons.org/]
write an essay of 4-6 double-spaced pages in response to one of the three books we’ll read together (by Yerxa, Rosenzweig & Thelen, Lewis, or Adair)
write an essay of 4-6 double-spaced pages reviewing an exhibit at a history museum
conduct an oral history
write a take-home exam of 6-8 double-spaced pages at conclusion of course

STANDARD OF EVALUATION:
The final grade for the course will be derived as follows:
- participation & presentations 20%
- essays 30%
- oral history project 30%
- final take-home exam 20%

ESSAYS:
Assignment for essay #1:
Write a 4-6 pp. review of any exhibit at the National American History Museum, using Schlereth’s article and its categories as a guide.
Assignment for essay #2:
Write a 4-6 pp. responsive essay on one of the books we’ll read together: Yerxa’s *Recent Themes on Historians and the Public* or Rosenzweig and Thelen’s *The Presence of the Past* or Lewis’ *The Changing Face of Public History*, or Adair’s *Letting Go*.

NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Academic dishonesty of any kind (including cheating and plagiarism) violates the community standards of Messiah College, as well as those of the larger community of scholars into which you enter through this course. As such, any cases will be punished appropriately. However, please do not hesitate to talk to the instructor if you have questions about how to use or cite outside sources or about any other matter of academic practice. Messiah College’s academic integrity policy may be found here: http://www.messiah.edu/advisinghandbook/academic/integrity.shtml
NOTE ON CLASSROOM COURTESY:
Out of courtesy for your classmates and the instructor, please turn off your cell phone before coming into the classroom. Do not answer the phone or text during class. If you are expecting a very important call, please put your phone on vibrate (silent), and let me know about the situation before class begins.

NOTE ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:
Any student whose disability falls within ADA guidelines should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. Students must register documentation with the Office of Disability Services (Hoffman 101). If you have questions, call extension 5358.
SCHEDULE

(NOTE: ALL DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

PART ONE: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF PUBLIC HISTORY

Mon., Feb. 1 - Introduction to Course

Wed., Feb. 3 - The Past of “Public History”

Fri., Feb. 5 - Public History at Present; Web Assignment DUE
readings:
Appleby, Joyce. “Should We All Become Public Historians?” AHA Perspectives (March 1997).
http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/Issues/2003/0303/0303pre1.cfm
Jonathan Spence interview with Gerald Prokopowicz, AHA Perspectives (May 2004).
3 websites from the “national professional organizations and resources” list in the appendix below

Mon., Feb 8 - The Future of Public History
readings:
Center for History and New Media & the National Council on Public History, “Forward Capture: Imagine the Future of Public History”
http://chnm.gmu.edu/ncph/
http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2006/0604/0604pro1.cfm
American Historical Association, “Employment Advertisements”
http://www.historians.org/governance/tfph/PublicHistoryEmployment.htm

Wed., Feb. 10 - Historians and their Public(s)
reading:
Yerxa, Donald A., ed., Recent Themes on Historians and the Public: Historians in Conversation (University of South Carolina Press, 2009)

Fri., Feb. 12 - Historians and their Public(s); Essays on Yerxa DUE
readings:
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/31/world/europe/russian-museum-seeks-a-warmer-adjective-for-ivan-the-terrible.html?_r=0
http://www.weeklystandard.com/article/doing-right-ike/647785
PART TWO: HISTORY AND MEMORY

Mon., Feb. 15 - History and Memory
reading:

Wed., Feb. 17 - History and Memory
readings:
Hutton, Patrick. “Recent Scholarship on Memory and History,” *The History Teacher* 33 (August 2000): 533-548. [via JSTOR]

Fri., Feb. 19 - History in American Life
reading:

Mon., Feb. 22 - History in American Life; Essays on Rosenzweig and Thelen DUE

Wed., Feb. 24 - No class meeting; attend Mark Samels’ lecture (Thurs., Feb. 25, 7 p.m., High Center) and at least one other event during Humanities Symposium (Feb. 22-26)

Fri., Feb. 26 - Discuss Humanities Symposium events

PART THREE: ORAL HISTORY

Mon., Feb. 29 - Oral History
readings:

Wed., Mar. 2 - Oral History

Fri., Mar. 4 - no class meeting

Mar. 5-13 - no class meeting; spring recess

Mon., Mar. 14 - Oral History; student presentations on oral history

Wed., Mar. 16 - Oral History; student presentations on oral history

Fri., Mar. 18 - Oral History; student presentations on oral history
Mon., Mar. 21 - Oral History; **student presentations on oral history**

Wed., Mar. 23 - Oral History; **student presentations on oral history**

Mar. 25-28 - no class meeting; Easter recess

Wed., Mar. 30 - **Oral History Project DUE**

**PART FOUR: HISTORY MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Fri., Apr. 1 - History Museums
readings:

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“Standards for Museum Exhibits Dealing with Historical Subjects”
http://www.historians.org/info/museumstandards.htm
[via JSTOR]
Gurian, Elaine Heumann. “What is the Object of this Exercise? A Meandering Exploration of the Many
Meanings of Objects in Museums,” *Daedalus* 128 (Summer 1999): 163-183. [via JSTOR]
3 websites from the “history museums” or “living history sites” lists in the appendix below
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Mon., Apr. 4 - History Museums

Wed., Apr. 6 - History Museums
readings:

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Fri., Apr. 8 - History Museums; **Essays on Lewis DUE**

Mon., Apr. 11 - History Museums
readings:

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http://www.afa.org/media/enolagay/07-03.html
“Hiroshima Atomic Exhibit Becomes Political Bombshell for Smithsonian,” *Christian Science
Search Complete]
Academic Search Complete]
201-206. [via Academic Search Complete]
Thelen, David. “History after the Enola Gay Controversy: An Introduction,” *Journal of
American History* 82 (December 1995):1029-1035. [via JSTOR]
Linenthal, Edward T. “The A-bomb controversy at the National Air and Space Museum,”
*Historian* 57 (Summer 1995): 686-694. [via Academic Search Complete]
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Wed., Apr. 13 - Historic Preservation; **Museum exhibit essays DUE**
readings:

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O’Brien, Patrick W. “Where is the History in Historic Districts--Some Concluding Thoughts,”
The Public Historian 32 (November 2010): 69-75. [via JSTOR]
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PART FIVE: DOCUMENTARY FILM

Fri., Apr. 15 - Historical Documentary Films
readings:
http://hnn.us/articles/1033.html
McDonough, Kathleen. “Constructing a Historical Documentary: A Director’s Take,” AHA Perspectives (December 2003).
http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/Issues/2003/0312/0312iii1.cfm
Toplin, Robert Brent. “Cinematic History: Where Do We Go From Here?” The Public Historian 25 (Summer 2003): 79-91. [via JSTOR]

Mon., Apr. 18 - Historical Documentary Films; student presentations

Wed., Apr. 20 - Historical Documentary Films; student presentations

Fri., Apr. 22 - Historical Documentary Films; student presentations

PART SIX: HISTORIANS’ AUTHORITY IN THE AGE OF NEW MEDIA

Mon., Apr. 25 - Historians’ Authority in the Age of New Media
reading:
Adair, Letting Go?: Sharing Historical Authority in a User-Generated World (Philadelphia: Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, 2011); pp. 6-32, 68-95

Wed., Apr. 27 - Historians’ Authority in the Age of New Media; Essays on Adair DUE
reading:
Adair, Letting Go?: Sharing Historical Authority in a User-Generated World (Philadelphia: Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, 2011); pp. 112-190

PART SEVEN: WRAP-UP

Fri. Apr. 29 - Wrap-up
readings:
3 websites from the “public history graduate programs” list in the appendix below

Mon., May 2 - Wrap-up; course evaluations

Fri., May 6, 10:30 a.m. - Last class meeting; take-home exam DUE
APPENDIX: PUBLIC HISTORY WEBSITES

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES
National Council on Public History
http://www.ncph.org/
Public History Resource Center
http://www.publichistory.org/
H-Public
http://www.h-net.org/~public/
National Coalition for History
http://www.h-net.org/~nch/
National Trust for Historic Preservation
http://www.preservationnation.org/
American Association of Museums
http://www.aam-us.org/
American Association for State and Local History
http://www.aaslh.org/
Society for the History in the Federal Government
http://www.shfg.org
The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums
http://www.alhfam.org/
Society of American Archivists
http://www.archivists.org
Oral History Association
http://www.oralhistory.org/

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
The Library of Congress
http://www.loc.gov/homepage/lchp.html
National Archives and Records Administration
http://www.archives.gov/index.html
National Park Service
http://www.nps.gov/index.htm
National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service
http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/index.htm

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, MUSEUMS, AND HISTORIC SITES
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg PA
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/phmc_home/1426
The Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg PA
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_archives/2887
State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg PA
http://www.statemuseumpa.org/
Preservation Pennsylvania, Harrisburg PA
http://www.preservationpa.org/
National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg PA
http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/index_1.php
Camp Curtin Historical Society, Harrisburg PA
http://www.campcurtin.org/
Historical Society of Dauphin County and the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion, Harrisburg PA
http://www.visithhc.com/harrismn.html
Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle PA
http://www.historicalsociety.com/
York County Heritage Trust, York PA
http://www.yorkheritage.org/
Lancaster County’s Historical Society & James Buchanan’s Wheatland
http://www.lancasterhistory.org/
Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, Lancaster PA
http://www.hptrust.org/
Southern Lancaster County Historical Society, Quarryville PA
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~paslchs/
Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Lancaster PA
http://www.lmhs.org/
Lebanon County Historical Society, Lebanon PA
http://lebanoncountyhistoricalsociety.org/
Manheim Historical Society, Manheim PA
http://www.manheimpa.com/
Gettysburg National Military Park (NPS), Gettysburg PA
http://www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm
Army Heritage Center Foundation, Carlisle PA
http://www.armyheritage.org/
Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, Mifflinburg PA
http://www.buggymuseum.org/

MEMORIALS
Washington Monument, Washington D.C.
http://www.nps.gov/wamo/index.htm
Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C.
http://www.nps.gov/linc/index.htm
Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington D.C.
http://www.nps.gov/thje/index.htm
National WWII Memorial, Washington D.C.
http://www.wwiimemorial.com/
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Washington D.C.
http://thewall-usa.com/
National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center, New York
http://www.national911memorial.org/
World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition, New York
http://www.wtcmemorial.org/
The World Trade Center Memorial, New York
http://www.thewtcmemorial.com/

HISTORY MUSEUMS
Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.
http://www.si.edu/
http://americanhistory.si.edu/
National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C.
http://www.nmai.si.edu/
National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis TN
http://www.civilrightsmuseum.org/home.htm
The National WWII Museum, New Orleans LA
http://www.ddaymuseum.org/
National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia PA
http://www.nmajh.org/index.htm
Senator John Heinz History Center
http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/
Chicago History Museum
http://www.chicagohs.org/index.html
Canadian Museum of Civilization, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
http://www.civilization.ca/cmc/home/cmc-home

LIVING HISTORY SITES
Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg VA
http://www.history.org/
Jamestown Settlement, Williamsburg VA
http://www.historyisfun.org/
Old Bedford Village, Bedford PA
http://www.oldbedfordvillage.com/
Historic Deerfield, Deerfield MA
http://www.historic-deerfield.org/
Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge MA
http://www.osv.org/
Plimouth Plantation, Plymouth, MA
http://www.plimoth.org/
Mystic Seaport, Mystic CT
http://www.mysticseaport.org/
Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, Fishers IN
http://www.connerprairie.org/

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY FILM PRODUCERS
The History Channel
http://www.history.com/home.do
PBS - History
http://www.pbs.org/history/
Films for the Humanities & Sciences
http://ffh.films.com/

HISTORICAL CONSULTING
History Associates Incorporated
http://www.historyassociates.com/
The History Factory
http://www.historyfactory.com/
The Winthrop Group
http://www.winthropgroup.com/
PUBLIC HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAMS, COMPREHENSIVE

University of South Carolina
http://www.cas.sc.edu/HIST/pubhist/

Arizona State University
http://shprs.clas.asu.edu/publichistory

University of California-Santa Barbara
http://www.history.ucsb.edu/fields/field.php?field_id=1

University of California-Riverside
http://history.ucr.edu/Public_History/index.html

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/history/index.php/public/

Loyola University (Chicago)
http://www.luc.edu/history/public_history.shtml

American University
http://www.american.edu/cas/history/public/MA.cfm

James Madison University
http://web.jmu.edu/history/public.html

New York University
http://history.fas.nyu.edu/object/history.gradprog.archivespublichistory.html

SUNY-Albany
http://www.albany.edu/history/pubhist.html

University of Massachusetts
http://www.umass.edu/history/ph/

Northeastern University
http://www.northeastern.edu/history/graduate/m-a-in-history-with-concentration-in-public-history/

University of Maryland-Baltimore County
http://www.umbc.edu/history/PHTrack/PHTrack.htm

University of West Virginia
http://history.wvu.edu/graduate_programs/public_history_crm

Duquesne University
http://www.duq.edu/history/graduate/index.cfm

Wichita State University
http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=history&p=/PublicHistory/

Western Michigan University
http://www.wmich.edu/history/graduate/areas/public.html

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/PubHist/index.html

Wright State University
http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/hst/pubhst/

University of North Carolina-Wilmington
http://uncw.edu/hst/letter.html

North Carolina State University
http://history.ncsu.edu/graduate/m.a._public_history

University of New Mexico
http://web.nmsu.edu/~pubhist/~pubhist.htm

Shippensburg University
http://www.ship.edu/Academics/Programs/Graduate/Applied_History/
PUBLIC HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON MUSEUM STUDIES
Winterthur Program in Early American Culture
http://www.udel.edu/winterthurprogram/
University of Delaware
http://www.udel.edu/museumstudies/
Cooperstown Graduate Program
http://www.oneonta.edu/academics/cgp/
George Mason University
http://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/programs/la-7-ma-ah
George Washington University
http://www.gwu.edu/~mstd/

PUBLIC HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
University of Pennsylvania
http://www.design.upenn.edu/historic-preservation
University of Maryland-College Park
http://www.arch.umd.edu/preservation/
George Washington University
http://www.gwu.edu/~amst/histpres/pres.htm
University of Vermont
http://www.uvm.edu/~histpres/
Boston University
http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/preservation-studies/
Clemson University & the University of Charleston
http://www.clemson.edu/caah/pdpla/historic-preservation/
Ball State University
http://www.bsu.edu/preservation/