# HIST 393: Public History Messiah College

Spring 2016 M W F 1:50-2:50 p.m. Boyer 277 instructor: James LaGrand office: Boyer 264 telephone: ext. 7381

email: jlagrand@messiah.edu

office hours: MWF, 10-11 a.m.; R, 11 a.m.-noon.

#### **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:**

Yerxa, Donald A., ed., *Recent Themes on Historians and the Public: Historians in Conversation*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2009. ISBN 9781570038341.

Rosenzweig, Roy and David Thelen . *The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life.* New York: Columbia University Press. 1998. ISBN: 9780231111492.

Lewis, Catherine M. *The Changing Face of Public History: The Chicago Historical Society and the Transformation of an American Museum.* Chicago: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005. ISBN 9780875806020.

Adair, Bill et. al., eds. *Letting Go?: Sharing Historical Authority in a User-Generated World.* Philadelphia: Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, 2011. ISBN: 9780983480303 Online readings listed below.

# **REQUIREMENTS:**

read all assigned readings by dates indicated in schedule

participate regularly in class discussions, including oral presentations

subscribe to <u>H-PUBLIC</u> discussion network [<u>http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~public/</u>] 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 <u>one</u> 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 <u>one</u> 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: <a href="http://www.messiah.edu/advisinghandbook/academic/integrity.shtml">http://www.messiah.edu/advisinghandbook/academic/integrity.shtml</a>

# 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/1997/9703/9703PRE.CFM

McPherson, James. "Putting Public History in Its Proper Place," *AHA Perspectives* (February 2003). http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/Issues/2003/0303/0303pre1.cfm

Jonathan Spence interview with Gerald Prokopowicz, *AHA Perspectives* (May 2004). http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2004/0405/0405pre1.cfm

3 websites from the "national professional organizations and resources" list in the appendix below

Mon., Feb 8 - The Future of Public History

readings:

O'Bannon, Patrick W. "Nothing Succeeds Like Succession: Ponderings on the Future of Public History," *The Public Historian* 24 (Summer 2002): 9-16. [via JSTOR]

Katz, Philip M. "Public History Employers--What Do They Want? A Report on the Survey," *AHA Perspectives* (September 2003).

http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/Issues/2003/0309/0309aha6.cfm

Shopes, Linda and Debbie Ann Doyle. "The Task Force on Public History: An Update," *AHA Perspectives* (September 2003).

http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/Issues/2003/0309/0309aha3.cfm

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/

Doyle, Debbie Ann. "Practical Advice on Getting a Public History Job," *AHA Perspectives* (April 2006). http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2006/0604/0604pro1.cfm

Bingmann, Melissa. "Advising Undergraduates about Career Opportunities in Public History," AHA Perspectives (March 2009).

http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2009/0903/0903pub1.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.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/russia/11481113/Russias-only-gulag-museum-faces-closure.html

http://www.weeklystandard.com/article/doing-right-ike/647785

# PART TWO: HISTORY AND MEMORY

Mon., Feb. 15 - History and Memory

reading:

Bodnar, John. "Generational Memory in an American Town," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 26 (Spring 1996): 619-637. [via JSTOR]

Wed., Feb. 17 - History and Memory

readings:

Glassberg, David. "Public History and the Study of Memory," *The Public Historian* 18 (Spring 1996): 7-23. [via JSTOR]

Hutton, Patrick. "Recent Scholarship on Memory and History," *The History Teacher* 33 (August 2000): 533-548. [via <u>JSTOR</u>]

Fri., Feb. 19 - History in American Life

reading:

Rosenzweig and Thelen. *The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life* (New York: Columbia University Press. 1998)

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:

Shopes, Linda. "Oral History and the Study of Communities: Problems, Paradoxes, and Possibilities," *Journal of American History* 89 (September 2002): 588-598 [via Academic Search Complete]

Thompson, Paul. "Pioneering the Life Story Method," *Social Research Methodology* 7 (February 2004): 81-84. [via <u>Academic Search Complete</u>]

Grele, Ronald J. "Reflections on the Practice of Oral History," *Suomen Antropologi: Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society* 32 (Winter 2007): 11-23. [via Academic Search Complete]

LaGrand, James B. "Whose Voices Count? Oral Sources and Twentieth-Century American Indian History," American Indian Culture and Research Journal 21:1 (Winter 1997): 73-105.

http://uclajournals.org.ezproxy.messiah.edu/doi/pdf/10.17953/aicr.21.1.525253u62077p833

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:

"Standards for Museum Exhibits Dealing with Historical Subjects" http://www.historians.org/info/museumstandards.htm

Schlereth, Thomas J. "Introduction," Journal of American History 76 (June 1989): 192-195. [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

Mon., Apr. 4 - History Museums

Wed., Apr. 6 - History Museums

readings:

Lewis, Catherine M. The Changing Face of Public History (Northern Illinois University Press, 2005)

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

Mon., Apr. 11 - History Museums

readings:

Correll, John T. "The Last Act' at Air and Space," Air Force Magazine (September 1994). http://www.afa.org/media/enolagay/07-03.html

"Hiroshima Atomic Exhibit Becomes Political Bombshell for Smithsonian," Christian Science Monitor (January 3, 1995). [via Academic Search Complete]

Krauthammer, Charles. "History Hijacked," Time (February 13, 1995). [via Academic Search Complete]

Kagan, Donald. "Why America Dropped the Bomb," Commentary (September 1995): 17-23. [via Academic Search Complete]

Sherwin, Martin J. "The Assault on History," Nation (May 15, 1995): 692-694. [via Academic Search Complete]

Bernstein, Barton J. "American Memory and the A-Bomb," Peace Review 8 (June 1996): 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]

Carson, Cary. "The End of History Museums: What's Plan B?" The Public Historian 30 (November 2008): 9-27. [via Academic Search Complete]

# Wed., Apr. 13 - Historic Preservation; Museum exhibit essays DUE

readings:

O'Bannon, Patrick W. "Where is the History in Historic Districts--Some Concluding Thoughts," The Public Historian 32 (November 2010): 69-75. [via JSTOR]

#### PART FIVE: DOCUMENTARY FILM

Fri., Apr. 15 - Historical Documentary Films readings:

Blumer, Ronald. "So You Want to Make a History Documentary?" *History News Network* (November 4, 2002).

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/2003/0312/0312fil1.cfm

Toplin, Robert Brent. "Cinematic History: An Anatomy of the Genre," *Cineaste* 29 (Spring 2004): 34-39. [via Academic Search Complete]

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:

Gardner, James B. "Contested Terrain: History, Museums, and the Public," *The Public Historian* 26 (Fall 2004): 11-21. [via <u>JSTOR</u>]

Begiebing, Robert et. al. "Interchange: Genres of History," *Journal of American History* 91 (September 2004): 572-593. [via <u>JSTOR</u>]

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 <a href="http://www.visithhc.com/harrismn.html">http://www.visithhc.com/harrismn.html</a>

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/

Miffinburg 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.wtcsitememorial.org/

The World Trade Center Memorial, New York

http://www.thewtcmemorial.com/

#### **HISTORY MUSEUMS**

Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

http://www.si.edu/

National Museum of American History, Smithsonian, Washington D.C.

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/~publhist/~publhist.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-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/