Objectives of the Minor

The Museum Studies minor introduces undergraduates to the history, theory, and practice of museums and collections. Courses encourage interdisciplinary thinking about the theoretical, historical and contemporary roles of museums and curatorial institutions in society. Through the minor, students learn about the preservation, collection, interpretation, and exhibition of art, anthropological, historical and scientific materials for the public audience.

Students majoring in Art, Anthropology, History, or any other major in the Humanities, Physical Sciences, Education, or Business can enhance their area of specialization with the Museum Studies minor.

Curriculum

Course credits for the Museum Studies Minor are divided into four areas: the Museum Studies Core, the Methods Core, Elective Courses, and the Cultural Experience.

The preliminary core of courses in museology and marketing engage students in the ethical and practical challenges facing curatorial institutions. An internship at a museum, archive, or historic preservation institution provides students valuable hands-on experience. The internship combines the practical experience in the operations of the museum and exhibition strategies with firsthand experience handling art, artifacts, archives and specimens.

The choice of methods courses provides students with a solid foundation in the methods and approaches to art, anthropological, historical and scientific objects. Elective courses build breadth of knowledge into the minor. The choice of elective courses allows students to design the minor to complement their major or to enhance their expertise in an area outside their major. The cultural experience requirement—through study abroad courses or through courses in a foreign or indigenous language—encourages students to broaden their points of view and to expand their interpretive skills for future research and practice.

Required Courses

The minor requires 21 credit hours including the internship. 12 hours must be from outside the student’s major. In addition, the choice of a Study Abroad experience or courses in a foreign language is in place to provide cultural breadth. All courses for the minor must be completed with a grade of C or better.

A. Museum Studies Core, 9 credit hours required:

1. ART 2800 (CH), cross-listed with ANTH/AMST/HIST 2800: Introduction to Museology (to be offered in Spring 2011)
2. Choose one on the following three: ENGL 4075: Writing for Non Profits: Grant Writing, or MKT 3210: Introduction to Marketing, or FCSC 4117: Working with Non-Profits and Boards
3. Internship (ART 4400, ANTH 4970, HIST 4400, or corresponding number in student’s major department). The internship in a museum or other curatorial institution must be approved and supervised by the Museum Studies Advisory Committee.

B. Methods Core, 6 credit hours to be chosen from the following courses (be aware of possible prerequisites):

AMST 4300: American Culture and the Public Sector
AMST 4900: Field Studies in Historic Preservation
ANTH 3300: Ethnographic Methods
ANTH 3310: Anthropology Research Methods
ANTH 4190: Public Archaeology
HIST 2050: Public History
HIST 3020: Historical Methods
HIST 4050: Advanced Public History
HIST 4055: Archival Research Methods

C. Elective courses, 6 credit hours to be chosen from the approved list of electives. Students will choose courses from the elective list in conjunction with their advisor, based on their area(s) of interest. Additional courses listed in the museum studies and methods cores (Parts A.2 and B above) can be chosen as electives. For a list of electives, go to www.uwyo.edu/museumstudies

D. Cultural Experience, choose one of the following:

1. Study Abroad – Students may enroll or participate in an approved study abroad course or program (credit hours vary).
2. Foreign or Indigenous Language – Students may enroll in 4 hours of a foreign or indigenous language. For A&S students, the 4 hours must be in addition to the 8 hours already required (12 total in one language, or 8 in one and 4 in a second). American Sign Language does not qualify.
An interdisciplinary Museum Studies Advisory Committee administers the Museum Studies Minor. Students declare the minor through the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The Museum Studies Advisory Committee is responsible for the arrangement of student advising and for the approval of course completion in the minor. Students can work with their major advisors to design the minor to fit their individual interests, but the Advisory Committee must approve the course of study. A list of approved electives is posted each semester on the Museum Studies web site:
www.uwyo.edu/museumstudies

Museum Studies Advisory Committee:

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