

## HIS 5067: Public History Theory and Methods, Florida State University, Fall 2019

**Instructor:** Prof. Jennifer Koslow  
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Office Hours: Wed. 11:30-12:30 & by appointment

**Lecture:** Mon. & Wed. 10:10-11:00am HCB 312  
**Graduate Hour:** Friday 10:10-11:00am Bell. 421

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the field of Public History. We will study how, why, where, and who produces history outside of universities. Central to these inquiries will be investigations into four major themes in the practice of Public History: uncovering hidden histories, constructing interpretations, creating a sense of place, and negotiating contested memories. In addition to these discussions, we will examine several different types of public history specialties: oral history, archives management, historic preservation, and museum administration. This course also affords students the opportunity to take the theory of what they study and put it into practice by learning the process of communicating history to and with public audiences. It does so by providing instruction on effective vocal and physical delivery of original historical information.

### Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, the student

1. will be able to state the history of the historic preservation movement in the United States, the history of the National Archives, the history of history museums, and the history of Oral History;
2. will be able to state the history of professional historians's engagement in producing history for and with public audiences
3. will be able to describe and analyze different types of public commemoration;
4. will be able to describe and analyze presentations of history that use mass media
5. will be able to create effective vocal and physical delivery of original historical information. In doing so, the student will be able to generate an original oral message, which clearly presents ideas and/or information make effective use of both vocal and physical delivery in the presentation; adapt the presentation to the particular audience; and, be receptive to questions and/or criticism.
6. will be able to conduct an oral history
7. will choose to develop her/his historiographical knowledge in preparation for oral and written comprehensive exams

### Required Assignments:

1. 5 oral communication presentations (6% each; 30% total)
2. 5 accompanying papers to oral presentations (2% each; 10% total)
3. Participation & Peer Critiques (5%)
4. Blog: Blouin, Bruggeman, Lubar, Meringolo, and Vagnone (5% each; 20% total)
5. Oral History Project (10%)
6. Community Engagement Project: FSU Residence Halls & On This Spot: Magnolia Hall (15%)
7. Historiography Project (10%)

### Required Readings:

- Francis X. Blouin, Jr., Processing the Past: Contesting Authority in History and the Archives
- Seth C. Bruggeman, Commemoration: The American Association for State and Local History Guide
- Dan O'Hair, A Pocket Guide to Public Speaking
- Steven Lubar, Inside the Lost Museum: Curating, Past and Present
- Denise Meringolo, Museums, Monuments, and National Parks
- Freeman Tilden, Interpreting our Heritage (2008 edition)
- Franklin D. Vagnone, Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums
- CS means that the reading is in the course site. Must be read by 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture of that week.

**Class Schedule:**

**Week 1: August 26, 28 & 30**

**Lecture Topic:** Effective Research & Comm.

**Reading:** O'Hair & Yow (CS)

**GH:** Discuss Ins/Outs of Oral History

**Week 2: Sept. 4 & 6** (No class Sept. 2)

**Lecture Topic:** Effective Research & Comm.

**Reading:** Tilden

**GH:** Discuss Ins/Outs of Oral History & reading & CEP

**Week 3: Sept. 9, 11 & 13**

**Lecture Topic:** Museums

**Reading:** Meringolo

**GH:** Meringolo discuss & CEP

**Week 4: Sept 16, 18 & 20**

**Lecture Topic:** Museums

**Reading:** Lubar

**GH:** Lubar discussion

**Week 5: Sept 23, 25 & 27**

**Lecture Topic:** Museums/Historic Preservation

**GH:** Communication #1

**Week 6: Sept 30, Oct 2 & 4**

**Lecture Topic:** Historic Preservation

**GH:** OH & CEP projects discussion

**Week 7: Oct. 7, 9 & 11**

**Lecture Topic:** Historic Preservation

**Reading:** Vagnone

**GH:** Vagnone discussion

**Week 8: Oct 14, 16 & 18**

**Lecture Topic:** Public Memory

**GH:** Communication #2

**Week 9: Oct. 21, 23 & 25**

**Lecture Topic:** Public Memory

**Reading:** Bruggeman

**GH:** Discuss Bruggeman

**Week 10: Oct. 28, 30 & Nov. 1**

**Lecture Topic:** Public Memory

**GH:** Communication #3

**Week 11: Nov. 4, 6 & 8**

**Lecture Topic:** Archives & Oral History

**Reading:** Blouin

**GH:** Discuss Blouin

**Week 12: Nov. 13 & 15** (no class 11/11)

**Lecture Topic:** Communication #4

**GH:** OH/CEP Discuss

**Week 13: Nov. 18, 20 & 22**

**Lecture Topic:** Communication #4

**GH:** Communication #4

**Week 14: Nov. 25** (no class 11/27 & 11/29)

**During Lecture:** Communication #4

**Week 15: Dec 2, 4 & 6**

**During Lecture:** New Media

**Reading:** CS

**GH:** Communication #5 & make-ups

**Historiog. Due:** Thurs. Dec 12 9:30am depart. mailbox

**Class & University Policies**

**Academic Honor Policy:** The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>.) **Failure to adhere to the Honor Policy may result in an F for an assignment or for the entire class.**

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Student Disability Resource Center, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167 (850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD) [sdrc@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:sdrc@admin.fsu.edu)  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

**University Attendance Policy:** Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice