

## Course Outline: Public History

### DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

*Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.*

## AP/HIST 4840 6.0 Public History

### Course Description

Public history investigates the ways that history is understood by and interpreted for the public. This course examines the history, theory, and practice of public history in a variety of venues, including museums, archives, historic sites, and digital platforms. In addition to class readings and discussions, workshops throughout the course will introduce students to the practical skills for the public presentation of historical knowledge, including oral history interview techniques, communication and presentation skills, and digital tools for public history. Students will meet practitioners in the field and participate in field trips to several public history sites. Classroom-based analysis, skills development, and field trips in term 1 are followed by a part-time placement at a public-history site in term 2.

### Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: SEMR

In-person seminars will be held Wednesdays 11:30 – 2:20. Course meetings in the Fall term will include discussions of readings, skills workshops, guest speakers, and several field trips. In the winter term, students will be placed with a museum, archives, heritage institution, or digital history initiative for the placement portion of the course (students submit their top three placement choices early in the fall term). Students will provide 120 hours of service (10 hours/week) to their public history placements over the winter term. They will negotiate their schedules directly with their on-site supervisor and keep track of their weekly activities in a logbook. At the end of the winter term, students will present reflections on their projects at the department's annual Student Public History Conference. \*Note: the class meets only occasionally in the Winter term, and mostly online.

### Course Materials

You are not required to purchase texts for this course. Links to all course readings will be available through the course EClass site.

Example weekly reading assignment:

Benjamin Filene, "History Museums and Identity: Finding "Them," "Me," and "Us" in the Gallery," in Paula Hamilton, and James B. Gardner (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Public History*, Oxford Handbooks (2017; online edn, Oxford Academic, 5 Oct. 2017), <https://doi-org.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199766024.013.18>

Sherry Turkle, "Evocative Objects: Things We Think With," 157-172, in Kean and Martin, eds., *The Public History Reader*.

## Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

[Provide a breakdown of course components into individual assessments, including the weight of each assessment and anticipated date held or due date. Include whether assessments are held in-person or online or if they might be held outside of class time (e.g. evenings or weekends)]

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Participation	20%	In-person	weekly
Term 1 Reflection Papers (4 x 2.5% each)	10%	Take-home	Term 1 deadlines
Resume & Letter of Introduction	5%	Take-home	Late September
Public History Podcast	20%	Take-home	Late November
Placement Project Presentation	15%	In-person	Early April
Placement Project	25%	In-person/Take-home	Early April
Revised Resume	5%	Take-home	Early April
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>		