

Chicago Program: Arts, Entrepreneurship, & Social Justice

Spring 2018

Museum and Cultural Equity Seminar

Instructors:

- Jason Pallas

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, we will collaboratively explore the multifaceted world of the cultural institution known as the Museum. Through a series of direct experiences with exhibitions and cultural workers, we will participate in a semester-long conversation about the benefits of museums across the disciplines, the barriers that might prevent full participation on the part of the public, and the opportunities moving forward for museums to more authentically engage their diverse audiences.

Our work will be grounded in our collective examination of these issues with the added expertise and perspective of practitioners in the field. To this end, our class sessions will involve visiting various museums throughout Chicago to experience the range of museum practices. During these visits, our time together will be split among robust dialogues with each other and our host, explorations of the exhibitions on view, and facilitated creative activities. Between sessions, students are expected to prepare themselves by completing readings and assignments.

We will be a community of learners in this seminar, with the full expectation that we each engage fully and to the best of our abilities.

Website and email

The Chicago Program Google site will include all readings and other course materials. Seminar schedules, major and weekly assignments, and announcements will be also be included on the Google site – be sure to check it weekly. The instructor will also send weekly update emails to the group and text individually as necessary.

Given the nature of our program there may be activities, which come up unexpectedly. Every effort will be made to notify you as soon as possible if there are changes in the syllabus.

In-Class assignment and homework

Those who do well in the seminar are attentive to all aspects of the class including in-class participation and completing all assignments in a timely fashion. Assignments should be completed prior to class on the due date. Late assignments will be graded down by 10%. Assignments will be accepted up to three days after the due date for half credit but will not receive any credit after the three-day period.

Any assignment that involves presentations cannot be made up and will result in a total loss of points. No hard copies of assignments will be accepted unless the format of the assignment is only possible to submit directly. All assignments should be submitted via e-mail to me at jason.pallas@gmail.com.

Field Visits

Field visits are foundational for the Chicago Program and for this seminar in particular. This seminar is designed on the premise that Chicago-based resources are co-partners in the teaching relationship. The work and perspectives of these partners provide valuable illustrations of the case examples we will explore. You will be expected to fully participate in field visits and engage in discussions with speakers and other resource persons.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Your final seminar grade will be based on a 1000-point system broken apart evenly amongst 3 major assignments (250 points each) and class sessions preparation and participation (20 points per class).

Grading Scale

A	1000- 940
A-	939- 900
B+	890- 870
B	869- 840
B-	839-770
C+	769-740
C	739-700
C-	699- 670
D+	669- 640
D	639-600
D-	599- 590
F	589 and below

Please note that I do not discuss grades via e-mail or text. If you have a concern about your grade, you must see me in person.

GRADING CRITERIA

Grade A

- The project is outstanding.
- It exceeds the stated criteria in each assessment area.
- The data is well organized and can be easily interpreted and used.

Grade B

- The project meets all standards and exceeds them in a few areas.
- A small number of the standards and criteria are well done.

Grade C

- The project meets all standards and the stated criteria
- There are no areas of weakness and there are also no outstanding elements

Please note that an assignment that meets all of the stated requirements will be graded as a C.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Students work will be evaluated in a variety of ways within the course. Any student who is not in agreement with the assessment of an assignment or the course is encouraged to approach me directly to discuss the situation. If the conflict is unresolved, students are encouraged to speak with any faculty for assistance. Students also have the right to appeal the final grade submitted the campus. Appeals must be in writing and include a rationale for the dispute. Appeals must be submitted within 30 days of receiving the final grade.

ACM POLICY ON ACADEMICS

All academic pursuit depends on trust. All of us should be able to trust that we will be treated with honesty and respect—respect for our ideas and for us as persons. As a participant in an ACM program, you will be expected to conduct yourself with the same level of honesty and openness as is expected on your home campus.

The following academic policies apply to all students participating in an ACM program:

Arrival and departure dates. You should make travel arrangements to arrive at the program site on the date specified in the program handbook. Similarly, you should plan your itinerary to remain at the program site through the last day of the program. ACM staff and instructors are unable to accommodate students who request to arrive later or depart earlier.

Class attendance and participation. You are expected to attend and participate fully in all classroom sessions, site visits, and field trips. Instructors typically take into account attendance and class participation when assigning final grades. Please remember that these are academic programs: it is not appropriate to miss classes because you are traveling or hosting visitors; you are expected to participate in all program activities unless otherwise excused.

Grade Choice. All ACM courses will be graded and reported to home schools on an A-F grading scale. If a student wishes to take a class or classes on a pass/fail basis, the student must contact their home school's registrar.

Completion of course work. All class assignments (including final papers, projects, and exams) should be completed and submitted before the end of the program. Any assignments or work submitted after the final day of the program will receive a “0” and this will be factored into the final grade for the course. ACM does not record/report an “Incomplete” grade for courses.

Academic honesty. Actions of dishonesty are destructive to the well-being of the academic community, and ACM staff respond to them vigorously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic theft will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in failure for the course. Extremely serious incidents of cheating or other actions destructive to the classroom community may result in expulsion from the program. Instructors who encounter plagiarism or other forms of cheating in an ACM program will report such episodes to the Director of Off Campus Study, who will investigate and hold a review according to the ACM Student Conduct Procedures. Students who are aware of academic dishonesty on the part of other students are expected to report that information to the Director of Off-Campus Study.

Final exams and presentations. ACM instructors cannot make special arrangements for a student or students to take a final exam or make a final presentation at a time different from that set by the instructor for the course (with the exception of a student who has a documented learning disability and with whom ACM staff has made prior arrangements).

Grading policies related to off-campus study. You should consult your home campus registrar’s office for off-campus grading policies in effect on your own campus.

Graduating seniors. Students who expect to graduate at the end of the term of the ACM program should discuss graduation requirements with an advisor at their home school prior to the start of the program. If you need to make special arrangements (e.g., if grades need to be reported by a specific date), you should share this information with the ACM program director at the beginning of the program.

Retention of syllabi, course work, and other course-related materials. Because home campus advisors may wish to review course work to determine how to assign credit for a particular course or courses taken abroad (and because, occasionally, course grades can be misreported), it is important that students bring back to their home campuses all materials from courses taken abroad. This is particularly important for courses taught by an on-site (i.e., non-ACM) faculty member, where it may be difficult to contact the faculty member after the semester or program has ended.

Release of student grades. ACM staff will only release grades to your home campus once all program, financial, and student conduct obligations are complete.

ACM Policy on Non-discrimination

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest does not discriminate in the operation of its educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, or disability.