

SAHC 60082: Museum and Gallery Curating
Option Course – Semester II (15/30 credits)
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Aim

The course explores the different understandings and approaches in curating various types of collections, identifying the knowledge and skills that a contemporary curator must have. In particular, the course offers both a broad and specific exploration of museum and gallery curatorship: Introductory and concluding seminars, fieldtrips and sessions by visiting speakers cater for the more general, common and overarching aspects of curatorial work. These are combined by 4 discipline-and-collection-specific seminars that form distinct routes through the course. Those specialist seminars explore the aims, needs and challenges of curating different types of collections using various tools and media, including digital media. Students combine one of those specific routes within the course with the shared, general sessions, thereby acquiring both a critical overview of the practical and theoretical dimensions of curating with a specific understanding of a particular field. The offered routes are (not all routes may be available every year):

Curating Art

Curating Archaeology

Curating Ethnography

Digital Curating

Museums of Conflict and Conscience

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theory and practice of curating in museums and galleries
- Understand the practice of curating in its historical contexts and its 'professionalisation' as a historical process
- Identify the institutional and professional contexts within which curators work
- Demonstrate a specific understanding of the aims, skills, needs, challenges and media related to curating a particular type of collections (archaeological, ethnographic, art, or digital collections)

Teaching and Learning Methods

The course is taught in weekly blocks and with three preparation weeks. During teaching weeks, the lectures, seminars, fieldwork and presentations will take place on Mondays (10am-5pm), Tuesdays (10am-5pm) and Wednesday mornings (10am-1pm). Morning sessions will be divided into a lecture (10-11am), followed by a seminar (11am-1pm). The afternoons will usually consist of a piece of fieldwork or a workshop (2-4pm), followed by student presentations (4-5pm).

Illustrative Bibliography:

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Brennan, M. (2010) *Curating consciousness: mysticism and the modern museum*, Cambridge, Mass.; London: MIT

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- Fyfe, G. and MacDonald, S. (eds.) (1996) *Theorizing Museums*, Oxford: Blackwell.
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- Preziosi, D. and Farago, C. (eds) (2004) *Grasping the world: the idea of the museum*, Aldershot: Ashgate.
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