

AHVS6202

Esme Ward, Whitworth Art Gallery

GALLERY LEARNING AND INTERPRETATION

Course Option – Semester 2

Aims

- to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the intellectual and practical issues related to gallery education, interpretation and communication.
- provides students with knowledge and understanding of the role and function of gallery education, interpretation and communication in their historical, social and political contexts.
- to offer a critical awareness of contemporary practice, as well as intellectual, practical and transferable skills.
- to explore the relationship between academic study and professional practice.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate in depth knowledge and understanding of:
 - different theoretical and critical approaches as tools for studying the conditions and possibilities of learning in the gallery
 - approaches to visitor research and studies, including the practice of evaluation as a tool for planning and assessment
 - historical, critical and theoretical concepts and practice of “access” and “learning”
- Conduct effective fieldwork to study visitors in galleries
- Produce an interpretation proposal for a gallery redisplay
- Contribute to the development and delivery of gallery education and learning programmes
- Respond to a project brief, work as a team and deliver a project presentation
- Retrieve, select and critically evaluate information from a variety of sources, including museums, archives, libraries and the World Wide Web.

This course examines the theory, policy and practice of learning and interpretation in the art gallery today. It addresses the construction of diverse audiences as learners, and explores the ways in which the institution addresses visitors through objects, images, words, programmes, spaces and structures. The history, theory and practice of gallery/museum education and interpretation will be studied, and contemporary practices of inclusion, access and evaluation will be analysed.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Weekly two-hour seminars with directed reading and presentations to be prepared from week to week, including presentations by guest lecturers and site visits. The course is assessed by a 5,000 word essay and a student project.

Illustrative Bibliography

Sandra Bicknell and Graham Farmelo (ed) (1993) *Museum Visitor Studies in the 90s*

George Hein (1998) *Learning in the Museum*

Hilde S Hein (2000) *The Museum in Transition*

Eilean Hooper-Greenhill (1994) *Museums and their Visitors*

John Falk and Lyn Dierking. (1992). *The Museum Experience*

Beverley Serrell (1998) *Paying Attention. Visitors and Museum Exhibitions*