

MUSEUM STUDIES (BRYN MAWR)

Department Website:

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/museumstudies>

Museum Studies is a program that offers students a rich and dynamic education in both museum theory and practice. Students have the opportunities to learn about the history of museums and their roles in society as well as to engage with critical, theoretical museum scholarship. Through coursework and internships, students will also have the opportunity to gain practical hands-on experience in Bryn Mawr's Special Collections as well as in museums in Philadelphia and beyond. This dynamic and interdisciplinary program intersects disciplines such as the History of Art, Anthropology, Archaeology, History, Education, Cities, Biology and Geology. The Bryn Mawr Museum Studies program aims to empower students to become significant contributors to various professions throughout museums, galleries and archives.

The Museum Studies program calls upon the College's extensive collection of art and artifacts, rare books and prints, photographs and manuscripts, which facilitates research and experiential learning for students. Through Bryn Mawr's Special Collections, students can draw upon the in-house expertise of a strong group of curators and other museum professionals working in the department.

Bryn Mawr is in close proximity to the museum-rich Philadelphia region, and students have the opportunity to work with distinguished and diverse museum professionals across the city.

Minor Requirements

The requirements for the minor are six courses that include:

- Core courses (2): "Museum Studies: History, Theory, Practice" and one course with an exhibition planning component. This can include the development of an online exhibition or an exhibition proposal.
- Elective courses (2-3): These can be courses officially taught in museum studies as well as courses in other disciplines that include museum studies content. Students also can take advantage of relevant courses at Haverford and Swarthmore. The Director of Museum Studies in addition to the Professor of the elective must deem the course acceptable as a museum studies course.
- Experiential courses (1-2): Praxis courses and/or the Museum Studies Fieldwork Seminar.

A student declares Museum Studies as a minor by meeting with the Director of Museum Studies and completing a minor work plan. The student can major in any department. Student internships in museums are considered vital "hands-on" learning opportunities for those who seek careers in museum practice. Students will also be encouraged to seek summer museum internships.

Museum Studies Core Courses

- HART B281 Museum Studies: History, Theory, Practice
- HART B316 Museum Studies Fieldwork Seminar

Steering Committee

A steering committee administers the Museum Studies program at Bryn Mawr. Many other faculty contribute courses to the program; see the Courses section for a representative listing.

Carrie Robbins

Curator, Academic Liaison for Art & Artifacts

Monique Scott

Associate Professor of History of Art and Director of Museum Studies

Courses

Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology Courses

ARCH B101 INTRODUCTION TO EGYPTIAN AND NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Jennie Bradbury

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

A historical survey of the archaeology and art of the ancient Near East and Egypt.

(Offered: Spring 2024)

ARCH B102 INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Astrid Lindenlauf

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

A historical survey of the archaeology and art of Greece, Etruria, and Rome.

(Offered: Fall 2023)

ARCH B203 ANCIENT GREEK CITIES AND SANCTUARIES (1.0 Credit)

Evrydiki Tasopoulou

Division: Humanities

A study of the development of the Greek city-states and sanctuaries. Archaeological evidence is surveyed in its historic context. The political formation of the city-state and the role of religion is presented, and the political, economic, and religious institutions of the city-states are explored in their urban settings. The city-state is considered as a particular political

economy of the Mediterranean and in comparison to the utility of the concept of city-state in other cultures.

ARCH B229 VISUAL CULTURE OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (1.0 Credit)

Evrydiki Tasopoulou

This course examines the visual culture of the Ancient Near East based on an extensive body of architectural, sculptural, and pictorial evidence dating from prehistoric times through the fifth century BCE. We will explore how a variety of surviving art, artifacts, sculpture, monuments, and architecture deriving from geographically distinct areas of the ancient Near East, such as Mesopotamia, the Eastern Mediterranean, Anatolia, and Iran, may have been viewed and experienced in their historical contexts, including the contribution of ancient materials and technologies of production in shaping this viewing and experience. By focusing on selected examples of diverse evidence, we will also consider how past and current scholarly methods and approaches, many of them art-historical, archaeological, and architectural in aim, have affected the understanding and interpretation of this evidence. In doing so, we will pay special attention to critical terms such as aesthetics, style, narrative, representation, and agency.

ARCH B252 POMPEII (1.0 Credit)

Evrydiki Tasopoulou

Division: Humanities

Introduces students to a nearly intact archaeological site whose destruction by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 C.E. was recorded by contemporaries. The discovery of Pompeii in the mid-1700s had an enormous impact on 18th- and 19th-century views of the Roman past as well as styles and preferences of the modern era. Informs students in classical antiquity, urban life, city structure, residential architecture, home decoration and furnishing, wall painting, minor arts and craft and mercantile activities within a Roman city.

ARCH B317 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ENDANGERED ARCHAEOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Jennie Bradbury

This course will examine how and why archaeological sites are 'endangered'. Primarily focusing on the Near East and North Africa (the MENA region), we will examine the different types of archaeological and heritage sites found across this broad region, and some of the threats and disturbances affecting them. We will consider how different interest groups and stakeholders view, value and present historical and archaeological sites to the general public, as well as the success of modern initiatives and projects to safeguard the heritage of the MENA region.

Our research will consider the ethics of cultural preservation, as well as the issues and problems encountered by heritage specialists working in areas of modern conflict. Whilst not all damage can be prevented, the course will consider how different threats and disturbances might be mitigated. Prerequisite: Upper level 300-level course. Students should have completed at least two 100 level/200 level courses in either classical or near eastern archaeology.

Chemistry Courses

CHEM B208 TOPICS IN ART ANALYSIS (1.0 Credit)

This is a topics course and topics will vary. All courses will cover a variety of methods of analysis of works of art centered around a specific theme. Using both completed case studies and their own analysis of objects in the Bryn Mawr College collection, students will investigate a number of instrumental methods of obtaining both quantitative and qualitative information about the manufacture, use and history of the objects. This course counts towards the major in History of Art.

Education Courses

EDUC H311 THEORIES OF CHANGE IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (1.0 Credit)

Kelly Zuckerman

Division: Social Science

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Drawing on students' weekly fieldwork, this seminar will explore how educational practice reflects and informs theories of change and pathways of action. Students their own theory of change; analyze the theories of change underlying their field sites; and develop skills and strategies for persisting in creative independence and interdependence with institutions. Areas of focus include teacher research and academic research, business models, network and relational models, mindfulness and listening, journalism, social media, museum studies and artistic expression. We bring these considerations to a reading of a current education reform initiative, The Baltimore Algebra Project, as a means of exploring the intersections of personal and structural growth. Prerequisite(s): Limited to students completing the minor in Educational Studies, or instructor consent
(**Offered:** Spring 2024)

French and French Studies Courses

FREN B105 DIRECTIONS DE LA FRANCE CONTEMPORAINE (1.0 Credit)

Agnès Peysson-Zeiss, Christophe Corbin

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Ce cours a pour objet les dynamiques et les tensions qui structurent ou déstructurent la France contemporaine. Dans quelle mesure la France a-t-elle profité de la colonisation et de l'esclavage pour devenir la France ? Le modèle républicain est-il mis à mal par ce qu'on appelle les "communautarismes", ou n'est-il lui-même qu'un déguisement du communautarisme de la majorité ? Quel est ce "séparatisme" qui menacerait la cohésion nationale et les valeurs universalistes de la France ? Pourquoi la laïcité est-elle en crise aujourd'hui ? L'État de droit peut-il demeurer un État de droit face au djihadisme ? L'arbitrage impossible entre priorité sanitaire et priorité économique montre-t-il que le pouvoir politique est devenu impuissant ? Les travaux à rendre vous permettront de vous exprimer dans des formats innovants (podcast, présentation vidéo, réalisation de pages Internet) et de perfectionner vos compétences à l'oral aussi bien qu'à l'écrit. Prerequisite: FREN 005 or 101. **(Offered: Spring 2024)**

Geology Courses

GEOL B210 CATALOGING COLLECTIONS (1.0 Credit)

Staff

This course is an introduction to cataloguing as an integral component of museum collections management. Students will consider the history, theories, and practices of cataloguing as a museum practice as it relates to the different objectives of various types of museums (art, natural history, science, history, zoological). Students will explore how cultural attitudes, institutional policies, and social expectations have historically influenced, and continue to shape, the development of collections management policies and procedures, while undertaking projects related to collections research and cataloguing. They will evaluate and recommend standardized vocabularies to build a collections database that accommodates more complex histories while optimizing searchability. They will engage with instructors who are actively involved in the professional operations of and calls to "decolonize" collections, becoming trained in the fundamentals of cataloguing collections as they actively rethink these structures and contribute to object records.

History of Art Courses

HART B120 HISTORY OF CHINESE ART (1.0 Credit)

Jie Shi

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
This course is a survey of the arts of China from Neolithic to the contemporary period, focusing on bronze vessels of the Shang and Zhou dynasties,

the Chinese appropriation of Buddhist art, and the evolution of landscape and figure painting traditions. This course was formerly numbered HART B274; students who previously completed HART B274 may not repeat this course.

HART B268 TELLING BRYN MAWR HISTORIES: TOPICS, SOURCES, AND METHODS (1.0 Credit)

Alicia Walker

This course introduces students to archival and object-based research methods, using the College's built environment and curatorial and archival collections as our laboratory. Students will explore buildings, documents, objects, and themes in relation to the history of Bryn Mawr College. Students will frame an original group research project to which each student will contribute an individual component. Prerequisite: An interest in exploring and reinterpreting the institutional and architectural history of Bryn Mawr College and a willingness to work collaboratively on a shared project.

HART B275 INTRODUCTION TO MUSEUM STUDIES (1.0 Credit)

Matthew Feliz

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

Using the museums of Philadelphia as field sites, this course provides an introduction to the theoretical and practical aspects of museum studies and the important synergies between theory and practice. Students will learn: the history of museums as institutions of recreation, education and leisure; how the museum itself became a symbol of power, prestige and sometimes alienation; debates around the ethics and politics of collecting objects of art, culture and nature; and the qualities that make an exhibition effective (or not). By visiting exhibitions and meeting with a range of museum professionals in art, anthropology and science museums, this course offers a critical perspective on the inner workings of the museum as well as insights into the "new museology." Not open to first-year students. Enrollment preference given to minors in Museum Studies. This course was formerly numbered HART B281; students who previously completed HART B281 may not repeat this course. **(Offered: Fall 2023)**

HART B276 TOPICS IN MUSEUM STUDIES (1.0 Credit)

Monique Scott

This is a topics course. Course content varies. This course was formerly numbered HART B248.

HART B340 TOPICS IN MATERIAL CULTURE (1.0 Credit)

This is a topics course. Course content varies. This course was formerly numbered HART B345.
(Offered: Spring 2024)

HART B420 MUSEUM STUDIES FIELDWORK (1.0 Credit)

Matthew Feliz

This course provides students a forum in which to ground, frame and discuss their hands-on work in museums, galleries, archives or collections. Whether students have arranged an internship at a local institution or want to pursue one in the Bryn Mawr College Collections, this course will provide a framework for these endeavors, coupling praxis with theory supported by readings from the discipline of Museum Studies. The course will culminate in a final presentation, an opportunity to reflect critically on the internship experience. Prior to taking the course, students will develop a Praxis Learning Plan through the Career and Civic Engagement office. All students will share a set syllabus, common learning objectives and readings, but will also be able to tailor those objectives to the specific museum setting or Special Collections project in which they are involved.
(Offered: Spring 2024)

History Courses

HIST B237 THEMES IN MODERN AFRICAN HISTORY (1.0 Credit)

Kalala Ngalamulume

Division: Social Science

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

This is a topics course. Course content varies
(Offered: Spring 2024)

HIST B349 TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE HISTORY (1.0 Credit)

Ignacio Gallup-Diaz

Division: Social Science

This is a topics course. Topics vary.

HIST H299 HISTORICAL METHODS LAB: ARCHIVE THEORY AND PRACTICE (1.0 Credit)

Marlen Rosas

Division: Social Science

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

In recent decades, the historical concept of “the archive” has served as a cornerstone for inquiry across disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. At a moment of dramatic transformation in archival practice through digital technologies, one that is fundamentally altering the nature of archives and our relationship to them, this course introduces students to the interdisciplinary theory and practice of the archive as method, material culture, power,

and idea of the world. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing or above
(Offered: Fall 2023)

Italian and Italian Studies Courses

ITAL B315 A GENDERED HISTORY OF THE AVANT-GARDE (1.0 Credit)

Giulio Genovese

The very concept of ‘avant-garde’ is steeped in a masculine warlike imagery, and the founding manifesto of Futurism even glorifies ‘contempt for the woman’. Yet, feminine, queer, androgynous, and non-binary perspectives on sexual identity played a central role — from Rimbaud to current experimentalism — in the development of what has been called ‘the tradition of the new’. In this seminar we will explore such a paradoxical anti-traditional tradition through texts, images, sounds, and videos, adopting a historical prospective from early 20th century movements to the Neo-Avant-Garde. We will unearth the stories and works of great experimentalists who have been neglected because of their gender. We will deal with poems made up entirely of place names, of recorded noises, of typographical symbols. Taking advantage of the college’s collection and library, we will try to read texts with no words, surreal stories, performances, objects, and we will make our own avant-garde experiments. Course taught in English, no previous knowledge of Italian required.
(Offered: Spring 2024)

Psychology Courses

PSYC B231 HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Magdalena Leszko

Division: Social Science

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

This course will provide an overview of the field of health psychology using lecture, exams, videos, assignments, and an article critique. We will examine the current definition of health psychology, as well as the theories and research behind many areas in health psychology (both historical and contemporary). The course will focus on specific health and social psychological theories, empirical research, and applying the theory and research to real world situations. Prerequisite: Introductory Psychology (PSYC B105) or Foundations of Psychology (PSYC H100). Students may take either this course or HLTH/PSYC H245 not both.
(Offered: Fall 2023)

Spanish Courses

SPAN B312 LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO ART AND THE QUESTION OF THE MASSES (1.0 Credit)

Martín Gaspar

The course examines the ways in which Latin American and Latino texts (paintings, murals, sculptures, and some narratives) construct "minor," "featureless" and "anonymous" characters, thus demarcating how and which members of society can and cannot advance a plot, act independently and/or be agents of change. By focusing the attention on what is de-emphasized, we will explore how artistic works, through their form, are themselves political actors in the social life of Latin America, the US, and beyond. We will also consider the place of Latin American and Latino Art in the US imaginary and in institutions such as museums and galleries. Prerequisites: Course is taught in English and is open to all juniors or seniors who have taken at least one 200-level course in a literature department. Students seeking Spanish credit must have taken BMC Spanish 120 and at least one other Spanish course at a 200-level, or received permission from instructor. Course does not meet an Approach. Counts toward Latin American, Iberian and Latina/o Studies. Counts toward Museum Studies.