



MUSEUM STUDIES MAJOR

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As centers of research and education, and as repositories for cultural heritage, museums play an important role in our society. The Museum Studies major trains students to develop the conceptual, critical, technical, and historical tools they need to engage a growing and dynamic field. Museum professionals must be able to gain expertise in diverse areas, they must enjoy both independent research and interaction with the public, they must be both creative and analytical, and they must be able to operate within complex and diverse organizations. The Museum Studies major is designed to introduce students to the historical and theoretical foundations of museums and other preservation and research institutions, as well as to provide them with the practical skills and knowledge needed to work in such institutions.

Westminster's Museum Studies major aims to give students the necessary preliminary training for a career in a museum or public history environment. Among the skills they can expect to learn are: how to collect and catalogue artifacts and documents, how to handle and preserve objects, how to interpret material culture for a museum audience, how to create and produce exhibitions, how to run educational and public outreach programs and how to raise funds to support a museum's mission and purpose.

You can find the course descriptions for all courses required for this minor by clicking on the following links:

- [History Course Descriptions](#)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY SHEET ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Major: MUSEUM STUDIES

Student Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Advisor Date Major Declared

| Course Number | Title of Course | Hours Completed | Semester Completed | Grade |
|--|---|-----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Historical Inquiry and Research | | | | |
| One of the following four courses: | | | | |
| HIS 103 | History of the United States to 1877 | 3 | | |
| HIS 104 | History of the United States since 1877 | 3 | | |
| HIS 109 | World History I | 3 | | |
| HIS 110 | World History II | 3 | | |
| | | 3 credits | | |
| HIS 390 | Historical Methods | 3 | | |
| One additional HIS 300 level course | | 3 | | |
| | Total | 9 credits | | |
| Required Museum Studies Courses | | | | |
| MSM 200 | Introduction to Museum Studies | 3 | | |
| MSM 3xx | Museums and Community | 3 | | |
| MSM 3xx | Museums and Education: Places of Learning | 3 | | |
| MSM 3xx | Museums and Collections | 3 | | |
| MSM 3xx | Exhibition Design and Digital Outreach | 3 | | |
| | Total | 15 credits | | |
| Required Internships: Must be taken in at least two different museums or historical sites | | | | |
| MSM/INT 3xx | Internship | 3 | | |
| MSM/INT 3xx | Internship | 3 | | |
| MSM/INT 3xx | Internship | 3 | | |
| | Total | 9 credits | | |
| Capstone | | | | |
| MSM 400xx | Capstone Experience | 3 | | |
| | Total | 3 credits | | |
| | Total Credits for Major | 36 | | |

If any substitutions or waivers of requirements are allowed, please list below and initial.

HIS – History

HIS 101 British History to 1800 (3 hrs.) An introductory course covering British/British Isles social, intellectual, cultural and political history.

HIS 102 Survey of British History from 1800 to the Present (3 hrs.) An introductory course covering British social, intellectual, cultural, and political history.

HIS 103 History of the United States to 1877 (3 hrs.) A survey course covering American social, intellectual, economic and political development from pre-colonial times to 1890.

HIS 104 History of the United States since 1877 (3 hrs.) A survey course covering American social, intellectual, economic and political development from 1890 to the present. A student may take this course without having had HIS 103.

HIS 109 World History I (3 hrs.) This course will emphasize the economic, cultural, and political interrelationships between different parts of the world as well as the global issues that define the modern era.

HIS 110 World History II (3 hrs.) This course will cover global history from the Enlightenment to the present. It will lay a foundation for understanding the breadth of human experience and how that experience has shaped the world we live in. Rather than focus solely on the separate development of civilizations, this course will emphasize the connections between cultures. In other words, we will look at cross-cultural interactions and compare global reactions to common problems. Additionally, this course will expose students to historical methods, thereby enabling students to discover the complexity of past and present events, to examine the interrelationship of such factors as politics, economics, race, gender, culture, and religion, and to reflect more thoughtfully on the national and international issues that face them today.

HIS 279 African Civilization (3 hrs.) A general survey of economic, political, and cultural world of sub-Saharan Africa from ancient times to the present. Offered in alternate years.

HIS 310 Topics in Public History (3 hrs.) Public History encompasses all the ways in which the study of the past is presented to the public in a non-academic way. In other words, it is the fun way of learning history. This course offers multiple ways for students to examine the theory behind different aspects of Public History and then allows them to gain practical experience of the discipline through either high-impact, project-based, or service-learning assignments or through dedicated travel courses.

HIS 335 Topics in U.S. Social, Cultural, or Political History (3 hrs.). This course explores an aspect of domestic U.S. History which sheds light on broader issues surrounding the nation's identity. Topics are selected based on the most pressing issues facing society today. Students will gain vital research, writing, and presentation skills while engaging with thought-provoking and often challenging subjects.

HIS 340 Topics in Diplomatic and Military History (3 hrs.). Beginning as a relatively small nation of thirteen states tied to the East Coast of North America, the United States rapidly ascended to a position of global preeminence through aggressive territorial expansion and through a series of military engagements. The policies and processes involved left a profound impact on the lives of those affected and on the course of world history. This class offers a deep examination of one aspect of U.S. Diplomatic or Military History to illuminate the causes and consequences of the United States' rise to superpower status.

HIS 350 Topics in Early World History (3 hrs.). This course uses a variety of different topics to explore traditions, change, and growing connections in the pre-modern world. Components of the course include seminar style discussions of primary sources and scholarly articles, research projects, and project presentations. Examples of topics include Medieval Pilgrimages (world religious and travel history) and the Vikings (Medieval Scandinavian, Islamic, Eastern European, and North American history with an emphasis on archaeology as history and modern political and cultural influences).

HIS 360 Topics in Modern World History (3 hrs.). This course uses a variety of different topics to explore the connections and themes of the post-1500 world. Components of the course include seminar style discussions of primary sources and scholarly articles, research projects, and project presentations. Examples of topics include Deviant and Degenerate Art (world history through culture from 1800-1980) and WWI and the Treaty of Versailles (military, diplomatic, and colonial world history from 1900-1960).

HIS 390 Historical Methods (3 hrs.) This course allows students to study the philosophy and methods of historical research, writing, and thinking. History majors and minors should enroll in this course in the Spring semester of their sophomore year. Prerequisites: Two 100-level history courses or permission of the instructor.

HIS 396 Applied History (1 hr.) This course is designed for History Majors and Minors to focus their practical and intellectual skills toward a rewarding career after graduation. The course will help students explore career/grad school options, connect them to graduates who have excelled in a variety of fields, help them find professional opportunities to present and publish their work, help them develop and refine a stellar cover letter and resume, and help them practice job talks and job market etiquette. Prerequisites: HIS 390, or with the consent of the instructor

HIS 397 History for the Public (1 hr.) This course is open to History Majors and Minors who have completed - or who are currently working on - their undergraduate thesis. It introduces them to the many ways they can present their work to the public including conference presentations, op-eds, journal articles, museum displays, documentary films, and more. Students will be expected to present their work in one or more of these outlets by the end of the course. In doing so, this course will enhance both their professional skills and profile. Prerequisites: HIS 390, or with the consent of the instructor

HIS 398 Independent Study (1-3 hrs.) Systematic reading, guided by members of the department, on particular historical periods, problems, or personalities. Enrollment by permission of the instructor.

HIS 422 Senior Thesis (2 hrs.) The practical application of the techniques of historical research preparatory to HIS 423. Required of all history majors in the fall semester of the senior year. Prerequisites: HIS 390.

HIS 423 Senior Thesis (3 hrs.) The practical application of the techniques of historical research, analysis, and composition culminating in a thesis. Students will defend their theses in seminar. Required of all history majors in the spring semester of the senior year. Prerequisite HIS 422.

HIS 424 Senior Thesis (1 hr.) Rewriting the senior thesis based on faculty and student critiques