

## Museum Studies

### School of Liberal Arts Indianapolis

**Director**

Associate Professor Elizabeth Kryder-Reid (Anthropology, Museum Studies)

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### Graduate Faculty

(An asterisk [\*] denotes membership in the University Graduate School faculty with the endorsement to direct doctoral dissertations.)

**Professors**

Debra Mesch\* (School of Public and Environmental Affairs), Jean Robertson (Art History), Philip Scarpino (History), Susan Sutton\* (Anthropology), Larry Zimmerman (Museum Studies and Anthropology)

**Associate Professors**

Jeanette Dickerson-Putman\* (Anthropology), Owen Dwyer (Geography), Elizabeth Kryder-Reid (Anthropology, Museum Studies), Elizabeth Brand Monroe (History), Paul Mullins (Anthropology), Kevin Robbins (History), Robert Sutton (Classical Studies), Christopher Vice (Herron School of Art and Design, Visual Communication, Museum Studies)

**Assistant Professors**

Melissa Bingmann (History), Matthew Groshek (Museum Studies, Herron School of Art, Design, Visual Communication), Youngbok Hong (Herron School of Art and Design, Visual Communication), Modupe Labode (History), Jennifer Lee (Herron School of Art and Design, Fine Arts, Museum Studies), Jennifer Mikulay (Herron School of Art and Design, Fine Arts), Elizabeth Wood (Museum Studies, Education)

**Academic Advisor**

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## Museum Studies Program

The Museum Studies Program provides an integration of museum history and theory with hands-on instruction in museum techniques and practices. It encompasses the scholarly exploration of museums, including their history, operations, ethics and role in society from interdisciplinary perspectives, while also training students in the technical aspects of museum work such as collections care and management, administration, education, exhibit planning and design, curatorial practices, visitor studies and technology.

As an urban university, IUPUI is part of a community with a rich heritage of museums and cultural arts. Faculty appointed as Public Scholars of Civic Engagement craft relationships and sustainable partnerships with area museums and cultural institutions and involve undergraduate and graduate students in meaningful ways in those collaborations. The Museum Studies Program has an extensive network of adjunct faculty and guest lecturers who bring state-of-the-art museum practice to the curriculum. The program also offers extensive opportunities for student learning through the resources of the museum community with experiences such as internships; collaboration on exhibit development and design; exhibition- and collections-focused courses; access to collections; collaboration with faculty on museum research projects; and participation in museum-sponsored seminars, lectures, and professional meetings. The integral role of Indianapolis museums in the Museum Studies curriculum fosters a critical, reflective, and scholarly discourse on museums that is applied to current practices and issues in the field.

The program offers a master's degree and both an undergraduate and a graduate certificate. Students considering application to the certificate or degree program are welcome in the classes. Up to 9 credits earned as a graduate nondegree student may be applied toward the certificate or degree upon admission to the program. Please see the Web site for admissions deadlines and current course offerings.

### Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies

The Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies provides students with interdisciplinary training in museum practice and a knowledge of contemporary issues in the museum field. It trains students in specialized aspects of museum practice such as education, exhibit planning and design, collections care, curatorial practices, philanthropy, and nonprofit management by combining Museum Studies course work with curriculum in other IU schools (e.g., Public History, Philanthropic Studies,

Education, Library Science). Students are given an introduction to the history and philosophy of museums and an opportunity to focus on particular aspects of museum practice.

The Graduate Certificate may be taken as a freestanding credential or paired with graduate work in another related discipline. Because it offers an opportunity to focus on specific areas of museum practice, the graduate certificate is also a suitable credential for current museum professionals who wish to enhance their professional training or develop new specialties. For specific requirements and options for cross-listed courses, see the Museum Studies web site or meet with an academic advisor.

## Master's Degree

The Museum Studies M.A. curriculum (36 credit hours) consists of a required introductory course, a set of integrated core courses which provide a broad-based interdisciplinary training in museum practice, and a choice of elective courses that allow the student to develop a particular specialty. The course work is complemented by an internship that provides an opportunity for an intensive applied learning experience in a museum. The interdisciplinary curriculum and flexible structure allow students to achieve either a generalist breadth suitable for those working in smaller museums or to focus on a particular area of museum practice appropriate for a specialist on the staff of a larger museum.

Team-based and applied projects form a core learning experience in all classes and present opportunities to work with community partners as well as peers in the program. Team projects such as exhibit development and visitor studies prepare students for the collaborative approach that is central to the museum field.

### Course Requirements

The Museum Studies Graduate Certificate consists of 18 credit hours of course work, including a required introductory course (3 cr.), an internship (3 cr.), two core courses (6 cr.), and a choice of two additional courses (6 cr.) from a list of museum studies courses. The master's degree program consists of 36 credit hours of course work, including a required introductory course (3 cr.), four core courses (12 cr.), an internship (6 cr.), a colloquium (3 cr.), and a choice of four courses from the electives (12 cr.) All these courses must be passed with a grade of B– or above in order to count for the certificate or the degree. Internships must be approved by a faculty advisor prior to registration.

Note: the requirements for the master's degree were revised in May 2007. Students admitted to the program prior to August 2007 may complete their degree following either the old or new requirements and should meet with their academic advisor to discuss their options. All students should file a curriculum plan with the Museum Studies office before the end of their first semester.

### Graduate Certificate requirements (18 cr.)

- MSTD A503 Introduction to Museum Studies (3 cr.)
- MSTD A508 Museum Internship (3 cr.)
- Core courses (6 cr.)
- Elective (6 cr.)

### M.A. requirements (36 cr.)

- MSTD A503 Introduction to Museum Studies (3 cr.)
- MSTD A508 Museum Internship (6 cr.)
- MSTD A530 Museum Colloquium (3 cr.)
- Core courses (12 cr.)
- Electives (12 cr.)

## Courses

### Museum Studies Graduate Courses

**A503 Introduction to Museum Studies (3 cr.)** This survey of museology introduces students to the history of museums and to debates on the philosophical nature of museums and their roles in society. The course covers the types and definitions of museums, traces the history of museums, discusses contemporary museum practice and examines current issues in the museum profession.

**A505 Museum Methods (3 cr.)** This survey of museum practice introduces students to methods, skills, and resources in three areas of museum work: artifacts, interpretation, and organizational administration, as well as to the ethical ramifications of these methods (course does not count toward the Master's degree, but it does count toward the graduate certificate).

**A508 Museum Internship (1-6 cr.)** P: A503 and two other museum studies graduate courses or consent of the instructor. An arranged learning experience in museum work appropriate to individual career goals, focusing on an aspect of museum practice and working with a museum mentor. May be repeated for credit.

**A510 Museum Education (3 cr.)** P: A503 or consent of instructor. This survey of museum education introduces students to a variety of professional skills through exercises, projects, museum visitor observation, and in-museum classes. It covers education theory most central to museum practice, the duties of museum educators, and current issues in museum education. (Core course)

**A512 Exhibit Planning and Design (3 cr.)** P: A503 or consent of instructor. This course offers a survey of museum exhibit planning and design through an integration of theory and practice. The class introduces students to exhibit development, including exhibit administration, design, and evaluation, and to a variety of professional skills through hands-on exercises, exhibit critiques, museum observations, and in-museum classes. (Core course)

**A514 Museums and Technology (3 cr.)** P: A503 or consent of instructor. This course surveys the growing use of technology in museums. It examines applications for information man-

agement in collections, conservation science, and archives. It examines critically the use of technology in the service of education both in exhibit contexts and in the variety of educational programs and Web-based dissemination of knowledge.

**A516 Collections Care and Management (3 cr.)** P: A503 or consent of instructor. A survey of techniques for the management and care of collections in museums. It covers documentation, management of collections, processes, administrative functions, risk management, and ethical and legal issues. The course also covers the physical care and conservation of collections. (Core course)

**A518 Museums and Audiences (3 cr.)** P: A503 or consent of instructor. This course examines the ways museums seek to better understand their audiences, serve them more effectively, and strive to reach new audiences. The course looks at a broad range of visitor studies and the ways in which museums and audiences interact.

**A530 Museum Colloquium (3 cr.)** This course provides graduate students with the tools and knowledge necessary to assess, understand, and utilize the links among their education, goals, and museum career opportunities.

**A548 Museum Administration (3 cr.)** This course presents an overview of issues faced by administrators and mid-level managers who work in museums, historical societies, archives, special collection libraries, and other cultural resource agencies. Topics, speakers, and readings are focused on issues that are unique to agencies that collect, preserve, and interpret cultural resources. (Core course)

**A560 Current Topics in Museum Studies (3 cr.)** Intensive graduate-level study and analysis of selected topics in museum studies. Topics will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated three times for 9 credits.

**A595 Independent Learning in Museum Studies (1-6 cr.)** A supervised, in-depth examination through individual reading and research on a particular Museum Studies topic selected and conducted by the student in consultation with a faculty member. May be repeated three times for 9 credits.

See the Museum Studies Web site ([liberalarts.iupui.edu/mstd](http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/mstd)) for current list of approved electives and new courses.