

# EXPLORATIONS IN PUBLIC HISTORY

HIST 3110 – 001

Spring 2012

Tuesday/Thursday: 1:00 – 2:25

and other locations TBA

**Instructor:** Ms. Katie Stringer

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- Email: Please use [REDACTED] or my D2L email account
  - I check my email accounts several times per day - this is the best way to contact me.
- Feel free to check out my website/blog for information and posts about public history:  
<http://katiestringer.wordpress.com>
- Phone: [REDACTED] – text or call **only for emergency**, only after 10am or before 9pm
- Office: Starbucks in the Walker Library unless otherwise posted
  - Office Hours: TBA
  - Or by appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the field of Public History. We will explore the four main tracts of this field including archives, museums, cultural resource management, historic preservation, oral history, and much more. Since the field is in a contemporary evolution other aspects of the profession will also be discussed. While studying the main elements of professions related to public history the class will experience technology, media, popular culture, consulting, tourism, exhibits, just to name a few. While studying the main elements of the professions, students will meet professionals from various fields and also be immersed in out-of-class, real-world experiences dealing with public history. The goal of this class is to pique the interest of those students who may wish to pursue a career or graduate degree in history that engages with the public. Lastly, students will also learn more about post-baccalaureate opportunities for those who wish to look for immediate employment in the field, or for those students who wish to pursue graduate level programs in public history.

## TOPICS

- |                           |                                |                            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • What is public history? | • Oral History                 | • Popular Culture          |
| • Who owns history?       | • Cultural Resource Management | • Environmental Protection |
| • Bias and POV            | • Historic Memory              | • National Parks           |
| • Audiences               | • Museums                      | • Media & Technology       |
| • Archaeology             | • Education                    | • Jobs & Opportunities     |
| • Material Culture        | • Public Programming           | • Professional Development |
| • Archives                | • Exhibits                     | • Issues & Problems        |
| • Historic Preservation   | • History in Unexpected Places |                            |

## COURSE STRUCTURE

### A. READINGS AND RESOURCES

- There is no textbook for this class!
- You will have weekly readings, articles, websites, and some handouts to read each week.
- You will have weekly discussion essays and D2L discussion posts related to your readings.
- **Please check D2L often for updates, assignments, and more information**

## **B. FIELD TRIPS AND OFF-CAMPUS ASSIGNMENTS**

- We will spend as much time out of the class room as possible to have more interaction with professionals, historic sites and organizations, and the **public!**
- I have arranged several trips to archives, museums, and other sites.
- In most cases, we will have discussion/lecture on Tuesday and a site visit or guest speaker on Thursday.
- All field-work is scheduled during our normal class time.
- You WILL have assignments that require you to take time out of class to visit historic sites or organizations throughout the semester. These have been assigned with reasonable due dates to accommodate busy schedules.
- We will discuss each trip in detail the week before the trip to be sure everyone is clear on the location, details, and expectations. I will also post information on D2L.
- Scheduled Site Visits include (and are subject to change, addition, or deletion):
  - Stones River Battlefield - Murfreesboro
  - Cannonsburgh - Murfreesboro
  - Sam Davis Home - Smyrna
  - MTSU Sports Hall of Fame – MTSU Campus – Next to Murphy Center
  - Gore Center – MTSU Campus – Basement of Todd Hall, by KUC
  - Center for Popular Music – MTSU Campus – Mass Comm Building by Library

## **C. GUEST SPEAKERS**

- For almost every weekly topic we will have a guest speaker in class or at an off-campus visit.
- Most weeks we discuss a topic on Tuesday; the guest speaker or site visit occurs on Thursday.
- Please be respectful and don't embarrass me in front of these speakers.
- Be attentive to what each speaker says! They may have some good advice for your future.
- Bring questions, ideas, or thoughts, but think before you speak. Be prepared!
- These people are great resources; if you don't bring questions we won't have much discussion!

## **D. ETIQUETTE OFF-CAMPUS AND TOWARDS GUEST SPEAKERS**

- It should go without saying that all students are expected to act in a professional manner in all locations that we visit, and listen to the professionals we encounter.
- Please be mindful that all students represent MTSU and the Department of History whether on campus or off, during or outside of class time.
- No inappropriate behavior, language, or conduct will be tolerated in any circumstances, either inside or outside of the classroom. Failure to behave properly will result in expulsion from the trip/site, as well as an absence for the day. Further action may be taken depending on the situation.

## **E. ATTENDANCE**

- You are expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance will be taken at each meeting in class or out.
- This is a fast-paced class, and we must move quickly to get through the material.
- Your instructor will allow you **three excused absences** without penalty. *Each unexcused absence beyond those three will cost you five points of your overall course average. While 5 points doesn't seem like much, missing only 4 extra class days over the semester drops you a full 20 points -- 2 letter grades.*
- Excused absences are only allowed with a note from a doctor, mechanic, or funeral.
- If you are late to class, your instructor will count this as being tardy. Being tardy TWO times will count as an absence. **To be counted as present you must come see me after class, if you are tardy – otherwise you will be absent for the day.**
- Awareness of all assignments, course materials, and other events are the student's responsibility, whether you are present for the class meeting or not.
- Missed classes cannot be made up, and you may not turn in any assignments late. Make-up work will only be accepted when you provide a suitable written excuse from a doctor or proper university official.
- If you have an emergency or sickness, please email or text the instructor as soon as possible.
- If you are absent from class it is **YOUR** responsibility to find out what you missed. It is your responsibility to obtain information or updates and changes made during absence(s) or late arrival(s)

## **F. GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- Please keep track of your grades on your own.
- I am happy to discuss your grades but *I will not seek you out to tell you if you are in danger of failing.*
- If you are having **any** kind of problem with the material or attendance, please let me know so we can work out a solution. If you don't notify me I can't help you.
- Pay attention to the withdrawal date so that you can drop the class if you should stay in class.
- Grades and information will be posted on D2L in a timely manner.
- D2L will be an integral part of the semester.
- If you are having problems accessing or need a little training in how to use D2L – ask me! I'm more than happy to help you learn to use it.
- Remember that points may be lost because of attendance issues!
- There will be no incompletes in this course unless the circumstances are unusual and arrangements are made with the instructor.
- The completed course grading scale is:  
A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, F = 59 and below.

### **Grading Percentages**

Weekly Papers and Readings – 10%  
Discussion and Participation – 10%  
Exhibit/Site Reviews – 10%  
Activities and Assignments – 15%  
Volunteer Work and Essay – 15%  
Major Project – 40%

### **Details about Assignments**

- Remember to use this as a guide for completing assignments!
- Due dates are listed in your syllabus (last page – important dates) and on your class schedule.
- You are responsible for keeping up with these dates!!

**Guidelines for all essays and papers:** Double space, use 12 point New Times Roman font, 1 inch margins. Make sure your work follows standard rules of communicating clearly and concisely, with proper grammatical construction. If you use outside sources, cite them properly or face the repercussions of plagiarism accusation as discussed below in Policies and Procedures. Essays should be turned in on D2L in the dropbox, but some may need to be printed and turned in during class time.

**\*\* Don't forget about the University Writing Center on campus – it is a great resource! More information is available at <http://www.mtsu.edu/uwc/>. The UWC is located in James E. Walker Library, Room 362. Call 904.8237 to schedule an appointment, or email [uwcenter@mtsu.edu](mailto:uwcenter@mtsu.edu).**

**Weekly Readings:** due each Tuesday. Readings relate to the weekly topics, trips, and guest speakers. **YOU MUST READ EVERY WEEK.** Otherwise we won't have discussions and nothing will get done. Bring 3 questions to class related to your readings for each discussion.

**Weekly Papers:** due **each** Tuesday! Follow essay and paper guidelines as listed above. Your essay must be at least **2 pages double spaced**. You will have 13 assigned papers for 10 points each and 3 lowest will be dropped.

#### **Weekly Paper Assignment Guidelines:**

- Make sure your essay is at least 2 pages, **not** including your heading. Put your name, the date, and the weekly topic at the top of the paper. **BE SURE** to ask at least 3 questions in your essay.
- Think about these questions: Who is the author, what is his/her background? What kind of bias does the author have? Who is the audience? What is the main idea/thesis? How can you relate to this? What is your opinion on the topic? Do you agree or disagree with the author? What was the most interesting part of this, and what was least interesting? Each week I will also have some kind topical question to go along with these basic questions to answer in your paper.

**Class participation:** You are expected to contribute to discussion in each class, bring questions and thoughts for guest speakers and for field trips. In addition, **discussion questions will be posted on D2L** related to the readings for the week. Answer the questions asked in the topic description for each topic. These discussions will open ONLY from the end of class time on Thursdays until the beginning of class on the following Thursday. **You will not be reminded of this**, but each Thursday the topic will be open and will close within one week. You are responsible for posting on the forum each week. Discussion posts are held to the same standards of essays – Use proper grammar and spelling, and be respectful to yourself and others. These posts will help your participation grade. For each discussion you miss you will lose points. Engage in a discussion with your classmates on the forum as a continuation of class discussion. You will receive 10 points per post for 100 points total (10%). Your 3 lowest grades will be dropped.

**Exhibit/site reviews:** Follow essay and paper guidelines as listed above. You will receive assignment sheets with more information about these reviews. You will have 2 of these due for 5 points each.

**Group Assignments and Activities:** You will have assignments for a couple of our field trips, and you will also have one online assignment. More information will be made available closer to time.

**Volunteer Work:** You will work at an instructor approved site for an event, work with the public, or for experience or specific training. You are responsible for contacting the site and setting up your volunteer hours and getting approval from the instructor before completing the hours. Choose something that you think you may be interested in such as archives, a museum, etc. You must complete 2 hours of work, either at the same time or at two different one hour sessions. A form is provided on D2L that you must have signed and filled out by the person who directs your volunteer work. Hours may be in conjunction with your project, but they do not have to be. Your signed volunteer sheet is worth 5 points, and you must also write a 2 page reflection essay detailing the work you did, what you did or did not like about it, what you learned, and how you think this volunteer work will help you in your future. This essay will be worth 10 points and you must follow essay and paper guidelines as listed above. This may be completed any time during the semester, but it does have a due date!

**Project** – This is flexible and should be something you can enjoy and are interested in. You can do oral history, a project with a museum or the archives, a travel brochure, collections planning, or many other things. You are responsible for coming up with your own topic- I can't decide for you. I am willing to help you with contacts or ideas, however. The project is worth 40 total points and is broken down into a rubric as listed below. First, you will turn in a project description for 5 points; this should include information about your topic as well as ideas for how you will complete the project. Next you will bring in a progress report and share your ideas with the class in small groups. The report will be turned in and worth 10 points of your project grade. You will also have a process essay of at least 3 pages explaining how you completed the project and any difficulties or successes you had throughout your project; this is worth 10 points. The final product, which will be variable depending on the type of project, will be worth 10 points. The 5 final points of your project will be for an in class presentation about the project and peer review of the project.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **A. RESPECT AND ELECTRONICS**

In order to create and maintain a positive and productive environment in the classroom, it is essential that each person treat other class members and the instructor in a respectful manner. Therefore, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to the following: intentionally antagonizing the instructor, receiving phone messages during class, leaving class early or coming to class late, talking while another individual is talking, sleeping in class, doing assignments for other classes during this class, and engaging in other activities that detract from the learning experience. Students who disrupt the class will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class and will be required to meet with the instructor prior to returning. Continued disruption will result in recommendation to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services that you be expelled from class.

### **Most Importantly:**

- ❖ When I address the class I am talking to YOU. Please listen.
- ❖ Please DO NOT BE DISRUPTIVE during class lectures. If you are disruptive to the class, you will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent for the day.
- ❖ Please feel free to comment or engage in a discussion over topics when appropriate, but be respectful of others and your instructor.
- ❖ Come to class on time or not at all.
- ❖ Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive and will result in a loss of points.
- ❖ No laptops are allowed unless discussed with the instructor at the beginning of the semester.
- ❖ No cell phones, pagers, or beeping watches or any other electronic devices that make noise are permitted in the classroom. If you must be connected make sure your device is on silent.
- ❖ **If your cell phone rings you will be asked to turn it off. If you do not turn your phone off or refuse, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of class. You will be counted as absent for the day, and you will need to discuss the issue with the instructor during office hours before returning to class.**

### **B. CHEATING AND PLAGARISM**

It is expected that all work you complete for this course is your own. You are expected to include appropriate citations (when applicable) in all of your work for this course. The University policy for academic misconduct will be followed. Academic misconduct includes the following behaviors: Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or facilitating any such act. These definitions apply:

- (1) Plagiarism.** The deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statements of another person as one's own without proper acknowledgment.
- (2) Cheating.** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- (3) Fabrication.** Intentional or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in and academic exercise.
- (4) Facilitation.** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic misconduct.

Any student suspected of violating the academic misconduct policy will be required to meet with me to discuss the situation. Your name will also be forwarded to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services for possible disciplinary action. If you are found responsible for committing an act of academic misconduct, you will receive a grade of "F" for the course.

### **C. LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP STATEMENT**

To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. You may qualify with a 2.75 cumulative GPA after 72 attempted hours (and subsequent semesters), if you are enrolled full time and maintain a semester GPA of at least 3.0. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility; if you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. Lottery recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for maximum of five years from the date of initial enrollment, or until a bachelor degree is earned. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form, or review Lottery requirements on the web at: <http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm>, or contact the Financial Aid Office at 615-898-2830.

### **D. ACCOMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or if you have questions related to any accommodation for testing, note takers, readers, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. Students may also contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (898-2783), with questions.

