

HIST 492: Public History Intern Experience

Spring 2010

The purpose of this course is to give students practical career experience in museums, historical societies, archives, historic preservation organizations, and other heritage institutions. Students will gain work experience while participating in the practice of public history making. Accepted students are assigned to work in a public history institution for 110 hours and will also participate in a bi-weekly classroom seminar (the meeting time of this seminar will be decided based on student schedules). Assignments will be made in consultation with the student participant on the basis of interest and location. Past host organizations have included Connecticut Landmarks, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation of Hamden, the Mattatuck Museum of Waterbury, the Wethersfield Historical Society, the Windsor Historical Society, and the Simsbury Historical Society. Additional heritage and preservation organizations will be added as well.

Prerequisites: History major or public history minor with 2.70 GPA or higher, completed 60 credits (with at least 12 in history), two letters of recommendation addressing academic ability and maturity. (Prospective students are required to apply for the course in the semester preceding enrollment—see below.)

Cap: 15 Students

Meeting times: Students will complete 110 hours in an internship placement and will also participate in a bi-weekly 1 hour 40 minute. The seminar will be scheduled based on students' availability. Students will establish their work schedules in conjunction with their host institutions.

Credit Hours: 4 credit hours. (HIST 492 counts as a 400-level American History course in the History major)

Grading: Students will receive a letter grade evaluating the successful completion of their internship. This grade will be assigned by the sponsoring faculty member based on the student's work journal and seminar assignments. The faculty member may also take into account the evaluation of the professional supervisor; however, all final grades are awarded based solely on the judgment of the sponsoring faculty.

Project/Time on the Job: We expect students to treat the internship like a professional job. This means keeping regular hours and observing the rules and deadlines of the host institution. Students are also encouraged to attend staff meetings. This allows students to see how their work fits into the larger program of the organization and to meet other public history professionals.

Registration: Prospective students must complete the application below by November, 15th and submit required materials to Professor Leah Glaser. All applications will be reviewed by Professor Glaser to make sure that applicants meet GPA and credit requirements and that they possess the maturity, commitment, and enthusiasm to succeed in their internship placements. Students who successfully complete the application process will be given the name of a potential placement supervisor who will contact the student for an interview. To enroll in the course, the student must successfully complete the interview process and be offered an internship by a local heritage institution.

**All questions concerning this program should be directed to Professor Leah Glaser,
glaserles@ccsu.edu (860) 832-2825**

Public History Intern Experience: Application Form

Students interested in an internship for the Spring 2010 semester must complete this application and return it to Dr. Leah Glaser by **November 1**. (Earlier submissions are encouraged.)

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a History major or public history minor who will have completed 60 credits (with at least 12 in History) by the beginning of the internship.
- Have a 2.70 GPA or higher.

Name:
Address:
Email:
Telephone:

In addition to this cover sheet, students must submit:

- A 500-word essay explaining the student's interest in the internship program.
- An unofficial transcript.
- The names of two faculty members in the CCSU History Department who will agree to act as references (make sure you ask first before listing a faculty member as a reference).

Students who complete this portion of the application will be contacted for a meeting with Dr. Glaser during which time we will identify potential internship placements based on the student's interests and ability to commute to the work location. The student will then be given the name of a potential placement supervisor who will contact the student for an interview. To enroll in the course, the student must successfully complete the interview process and be offered an internship by a community public history institution.