

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for ARHS 6

MUSEUM & GALLERY TECHNIQUES

Effective: Fall 2010

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ARHS 6 — MUSEUM & GALLERY TECHNIQUES — 3.00 units

An examination of the methodology and technique of displaying visual art within a museum/gallery space. Opportunities to meet artists from the Bay Area and beyond, learn the meaning behind their artwork, and gain hands-on practice in a range of activities covering the presentation, handling, and security of original artwork in the LPC Center for the Arts Gallery. 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory.

2.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	36.00
Lab Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	90.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. exhibit expected behavioral protocols in museum/art gallery settings
2. analyze artists' statements about themselves and their work and other materials relevant to a specific exhibition
3. discuss with others the content and meaning in the work of exhibited artists
4. demonstrate basic framing, hanging, and lighting techniques for gallery exhibitions
5. serve as a docent/guide in the CCA Gallery

V. CONTENT:

- A. Reading, understanding, interpreting, and conveying artists' statements about themselves and their work and other materials relevant to specific exhibitions
- B. Methods and techniques of conveying content and meaning in the works of exhibiting artists
- C. Basic techniques in framing, hanging, and lighting works of art
- D. Practices and appropriate methods of exhibition security and maintenance

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. **Lecture** -
- D. **Demonstration** - 1. Framing techniques 2. Hanging and lighting techniques
- E. **Guest Lecturers** - 1. Local artists 2. Gallery owners
- F. **Field Trips** - 1. Gallery tours 2. Museum exhibitions

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Read and discuss an artist's statement 1. Identify a specific artist's motivation, artistic process, and hopes and expectations for the viewers. 2. Select a specific work by an artist and write an informative and educational "talk" about the artist and his/her work that you could offer to gallery visitors. B. Survey of a museum 1. List the name of the museum, the type of museum, the types of collections in the museum, the mission of the museum, the architecture of the building, the museum experience (the flow, presentation, lighting, etc.). C. Survey of an exhibition 1. List the title of the exhibition, the objects in the exhibition, the presentation techniques, the sequence and flow of the exhibit, the lighting, labels, etc, publications associated with the exhibit, and your experience of the exhibition. D. Participate in the hanging of a Las Positas College art exhibit. E. Greet and inform gallery visitors about the art currently on display.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**

1. Quizzes
2. Class Participation
3. Home Work

B. Frequency

1. Weekly reading, writing, and hands-on activities
2. 5 or 6 quizzes related to course content
3. 4 or 5 museum and/or gallery visits with written evaluations
4. Ongoing demonstration of simple hanging/exhibit techniques
5. 2 or 3 docent/guide assignments in the gallery

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Anderson, Gail, Editor *Reinventing the Museum: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Paradigm Shift.*, Altamira Press, 2004.
2. Lord, Barry and Gail Dexter Lord *The Manual of Museum Exhibitions.*, Altamira Press, 2001.
3. Schlatter, N. Elizabeth *Museum Careers: A Practical Guide for Students and Novices.*, Left Coast Press, 2008.
4. Weil, Stephen E. *Making Museums Matter.*, Smithsonian Books, 2002.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: