Public History @ Rutgers University

Prepare for Careers in Public History

Archives
Museums
Art Galleries
Smithsonian
Parks
Historic Sites
Historical Associations
Cultural Heritage Research Institutes
Camps
National & State Parks
Conservatories
Colleges

Pictured: Tenement Museum NYC

* Historical Preservation Sites *
* Special Collections * National Park Service *
Arts and Humanities Councils

The History Workshop

History 506:299:02: Making Spectacles
T/Th 4 MU 208
Temma Kaplan

Most people hope to live their lives in peace and quiet. But what happens when wars make that impossible? Or racism, poverty or injustice inhibit lives? Or when toxic wastes and water contamination force people to take action by “making spectacles of themselves” in social movements? And how are the histories of social movements written?

Assignments include opportunities for writing, preparing digital public histories, looking into the impact of film and public displays.

History 506:299:03: On the Move:
People, Things, and Ideas in the Modern World
T 5-6 Hardenbergh Hall B6

Ann Fabian & Jamie Pietruska

How we can understand historical change through everyday experience? Students will use historical newspaper databases to recreate the collision of horses and automobiles on early-20th-century city streets, examine the Office of Price Administration’s food rationing and price ceilings during World War II, and examine the emergence of environmental politics in the 20th-century United States. Finally, students will research the histories of Central Park as a public space and use the methods of public history to curate and present their research findings in a collaborative digital form.
Public History: Theory, Method & Practice

This course provides an introduction to the theory, methods, practice, and politics of "public history" and allows students to explore firsthand the greater possibilities and challenges of the production and dissemination of histories in nonacademic settings. Through readings, workshops conducted by professionals in the field, site visits, and course assignments, students will learn about how public history has developed as a field, and how it continues to change.

History 506:301:01
Andy Urban M 5/6 ARH 100

In this section students will work collaboratively, in groups, to curate an exhibition that will be part of Rutgers’ upcoming 350th anniversary celebration. Using materials from the University Special Collections, students will explore lesser-known individuals, events, and themes in Rutgers’ history, in order to provide new interpretive frameworks for examining how the University has changed over time.

History 506:301:02  Tony Jones  M/Th 2 MU 212

New Jersey Environments: New Jersey has a rich and varied environment. Its environment also has a troubled history. In the 20th century, communities across New Jersey have been exposed to higher rates of pollution and toxic exposure than any other state in the country. What accounts for this history and what role is there for historians in bringing public attention to it? New Jersey Environments will examine the history of several toxic sites, using digital tools as well as classroom collaboration to make sense of one aspect of the state’s past.

506:302 Introduction to Oral History
IlIlingworth/Graham
W 4-5, CAC CA A2

This course provides an interdisciplinary and international perspective on the practice of oral history. Oral History is a vibrant practice inside and outside the academy, and this class will introduce you to oral history “in the real world” and teach you valuable interviewing skills that are applicable to many jobs and careers.

- Examine oral history as a method of research
- Study a variety of uses of oral history
- Record oral history interviews and use them in a project

The Public History Certificate: Paving the path to a Public History Career
15 Credit Hours

1. History Workshop  506:299
2. Public History  506:301
3. Introduction to Oral History 506:302 or Digital Humanities
4. one elective from American Studies, Art History, Anthropology, Geography, etc.
5. The History Internship 506:451

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