AS.389 (PROGRAM IN MUSEUMS AND SOCIETY)

AS.389.155. The History of Fake News from The Flood to The Apocalypse. 3 Credits.
“Fake News” is everywhere in both past and present. Explore that history first-hand through JHU’s rare book collection of literary and historical forgeries spanning millennia of human history. Students learn how to examine and investigate rare books.
Area: Writing Intensive

AS.389.165. Hands on History: Material Cultures of Knowledge from Antiquity to the Digital Age. 3 Credits.
This hands-on course deals entirely with JHU’s collections of rare books and physical manuscripts as a springboard to build skills in the close visual and physical examination of rare books and manuscripts. You will investigate the technological and aesthetic transformation of textual artifacts from ancient papyri to Gutenberg imprints to digital surrogates, and contribute to the accumulation of historical clues about their meaning and significance as material cultural objects. You will learn what goes into curating and conserving book and manuscript collections today, and how to evaluate the quality and significance of collections. Materials/topics will include ancient Babylonian cuneiform and Egyptian papyri; medieval illuminated manuscripts; incunabula; Renaissance illustrated books of the Scientific Revolution and Spanish Golden Age; cheap print and unique ephemera; early books by and about women; forgeries; and “digital humanities” initiatives at JHU. Students will make regular visits to the Special Collections Reading Room in the BLC throughout the semester.
Area: Writing Intensive

AS.389.201. Introduction to the Museum: Past and Present. 3 Credits.
This course surveys museums, from their origins to their most contemporary forms, in the context of broader historical, intellectual, and cultural trends including the social movements of the 20th century. Anthropology, art, history, and science museums are considered. Crosslisted with Anthropology, History, History of Art, International Studies and Medicine, Science & Humanities.

AS.389.202. Introduction to the Museum: Issues and Ideas. 3 Credits.
Museums face practical, political and ethical challenges, including economic difficulties, debates over interpretation of culture and pressure to demonstrate social value. This course considers how museums are answering these challenges.

AS.389.220. Queer Sixties. 3 Credits.
Introduction to queer & trans politics and culture in the period immediately preceding the gay liberation movement, from the early to late 1960s, focusing on intersections of race, sexuality, and gender. Course examines how we have come to narrate queer & trans history and investigates the ways archival practices shape conceptions of queer & trans life. Students learn research methods as they draw on and contribute to the university’s digitized archival collections.

AS.389.230. Queer & Trans Public History. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to a blend of public history, queer studies and transgender studies. Students learn oral history and archival research methods as they draw on and contribute to the university’s archival, museum, and library collections.

AS.389.240. Archaeological Museum Practicum: Collections Management. 3 Credits.
Students will learn current procedures for surveying, cataloguing, documenting and rehousing collections using objects from the Archaeological Museum. This is a hands-on practicum course working closely with museum staff.

AS.389.242. Museum Education: From Contested Knowledge to Reflective Narrative. 3 Credits.
This practicum course critically considers current art and history museum education practices and explores social justice discourses through museum visits, visitor studies, and museum learning strategies.

AS.389.250. Conservation of Material Culture: Art, Artifacts and Heritage Sites. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the field of art conservation through the study of paintings, paper, books, objects, contemporary sculpture and historic preservation. Topics covered will include: methods of manufacture, agents of deterioration, preservation initiatives, conservation treatment and ethics, and conservation science. Crosslisted with History of Art. Class usually meets at 1:30 - 3:50 PM, except for days with field trips.

AS.389.260. Cultural Heritage in Crisis. 3 Credits.
We explore the possible futures of cultural heritage and museums in times of accelerating climate change, pandemics, armed conflict and political and social turmoil by examining past and contemporary events.

AS.389.275. Interpreting Hopkins as Historic Site. 3 Credits.
This hands-on course explores interpretive strategies for historic sites and culminates in the production of original, research-based, outdoor interpretive exhibits on the Homewood Campus.

AS.389.280. Of and For Everyone: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access in the Museum. 3 Credits.
How are museums responding to the pressures to be more equitable, inclusive, and accessible towards public audiences and their staff? Students go behind the scenes of the Smithsonian, Baltimore Museum of Industry and Baltimore Museum of Art to meet with working groups and staff charged with transforming their institutions. Includes site visits, hands-on experiences and research on best practices.

AS.389.303. World of Things. 3 Credits.
The course introduces and applies new concepts about materials, and materiality to museum objects. It treats the museum as a site for investigating the relationship between people and things.

AS.389.311. From Treasure House to Production House: Exploring New Roles for the Museum in the 21st Century. 3 Credits.
Students work with the Director of, the Peale Center for Baltimore History and Architecture as it reinvents itself as a museum for the twenty-first century. Involves working with community story-tellers in residence. Extra time is to allow for field trip travel - most days class runs 1:30-3:50.

AS.389.314. Commemoration, Mourning, and Race: The Stories of Mount Auburn Cemetery. 3 Credits.
In partnership with Mount Auburn Cemetery in Baltimore, owned and operated by the Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, this community-engaged course will address the African American cemetery in general, and the Mount Auburn Cemetery in particular, as a place of multiple meanings: a sacred site of private mourning, a public place of commemoration, a representation of racism, an historic accomplishment. This course will require on-site research that contributes to the cemetery's interests.
AS.389.315. Ancient Color: The Technologies and Meanings of Color in Antiquity. 3 Credits.
What role did the colorful surfaces of sculptures, vessels and textiles play in the ancient world? We examine historical texts and recent scholarly and scientific publications on the technologies and meanings of color in antiquity, and use imaging and analytical techniques to study polychromed objects from the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.

AS.389.322. Tigers to Teapots: Collecting, Cataloging, and Hoarding in America. 3 Credits.
Course will examine the collecting behavior of Americans. Students will explore how collectors have defined the holdings of the nation’s museums, galleries, and libraries and used objects to shape taste and status in the U.S.

AS.389.324. The BMA Seminar: Digital Interpretation. 3 Credits.
When museums shut their galleries in response to the global pandemic they saw a surge in digital audiences and engagement, though not everyone can access digital content equally. Continued public health risks bring new challenges to digital interpretation, while universal access as well as embedded racial and gender bias remain significant issues. Students research what works and what doesn’t in digital interpretation for art museums, centering social equity and accessibility in their assessment, and develop principles and guidelines for the museum’s digital interpretation strategy.

AS.389.325. Women of the Book: Female Miracle Workers, Mystics, and Material Culture, 1450-1800. 3 Credits.
From psycho-spiritual autobiographers to mystical bi-locating nuns, convent crèche-keepers to choristers of sacred music, from rock-star-status mystics to the hidden careers of women printers, engravers, and miracle-makers, this course will explore the remarkable intellectual, cultural, and imaginative contributions of women who found refuge, agency, and power within alternative lives.
Area: Writing Intensive

AS.389.329. Author/Canon/Archive. 3 Credits.
Why are some literary works from the past reprinted, anthologized, and considered worthy of study, but not others? Why are some works "lost" and some "rediscovered," while others simply fall out of favor? Focusing on nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American literary culture, we will use rare books and archival materials from JHU collections to examine Edgar Allan Poe, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Stephen Crane, Charles Chesnutt, and Zora Neale Hurston, along with a few authors you’ve never heard of, in terms of the relationship between authorship, stewardship, and status.

AS.389.340. Critical Issues in Art Conservation. 3 Credits.
The course examines recent controversies in the conservation of major global art works and sites, raising questions concerning the basic theoretical assumptions, practical methods and ethical implications of art conservation. Cross-Listed with History of Art and Anthropology.

AS.389.346. Scribbling Women in the Literary Archive. 3 Credits.
Students examine select texts and archival materials related to Emily Dickinson, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Edith Wharton, Ida B. Wells, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Sui Sin Far, Alice Duer Miller, and Zora Neale Hurston. Students interrogate how these writers navigated the constraints of gender, as informed by race and class, in the decades before and after the 19th Amendment and consider literary collecting in relation to gendered cultural politics.

AS.389.347. Landscaping Baltimore: Designing and Interpreting JHU’s Neighborhood. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the landscape history and current arrangement of the area around JHU’s Homewood campus, including Evergreen Museum, coinciding with the bi-centennial of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted whose design firm played a central role in developing plans for and around JHU. The course will culminate in a student-produced exhibit for a public audience.

AS.389.348. Queer Oral History. 3 Credits.
Students learn to conduct, analyze, and interpret their own oral histories as they contribute to a wide-ranging project documenting queer worldmaking in the Baltimore-Washington D.C. region. We engage with scholarship from performance studies, queer of color critique, LGBTQ history, and public humanities to consider the politics of storytelling and the promises of public-facing oral history projects. Students have the option of developing podcasts, multimedia projects, and public humanities proposals as their final assignment.

AS.389.357. Heaven on Earth: Art, Power, and Wonder in the Vatican from Antiquity to the Enlightenment. 3 Credits.
A material cultural exploration of the Vatican from the founding of St. Peter’s basilica in antiquity to the establishment of the Vatican Library and Museums in the Renaissance and Enlightenment.
Area: Writing Intensive

AS.389.373. Encountering American Art. 4 Credits.
Students investigate the Baltimore Museum of Art’s American art collection and its presentation to the public alongside current scholarship on American art to develop strategies for a new permanent collection display that aligns with the museum’s commitment to artistic excellence and social equity. M&S Practicum. Co-taught with BMA curator Virginia Anderson.

AS.389.379. Interpreting Historic Sites for the 21st Century. 3 Credits.
Students go behind the scenes at JHU’s own Evergreen Museum and Library to investigate how historic sites design spaces for learning, community engagement, leisure, as well as for exhibitions and special events. Students consider the history of Evergreen and its inhabitants and create concepts for how to engage communities in that history and story. Multiple class meetings take place at the Evergreen Museum.

AS.389.384. Object Encounters at the Baltimore Museum of Art. 3 Credits.
Using the Baltimore Museum of Art as a laboratory, students examine canonical narratives in art museums and iterate new approaches to objects in museums that build equity, interrogate privilege, decolonise, revisualise and offer alternative stories. Class meets at the museum every other week.

AS.389.405. Visualizing Africa. 3 Credits.
Examines the history of African art in the Euro-American world, focusing on the ways that Western institutions have used African artworks to construct narratives about Africa and its billion residents.
Area: Writing Intensive

AS.389.410. Sharing Knowledge: Participatory Archives, Collaborative Storytelling, and Social Justice. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to collaborative humanities projects that encourage democratic participation among publics more broadly conceived than the academy. We investigate indigenous research methods; collaborative oral history and ethnography; interactive theater; and community archives. Final projects draw on the university’s archival, museum, and library collections.
AS.389.420. Curatorial Seminar. 4 Credits.
In collaboration with a local museum, conceptualize and develop an exhibition, potentially including but not limited to: checklists, exhibition texts, interpretive strategies, and programming. Exhibition theme varies year to year. Concepts, ethics and practicalities of curation are key concerns. Research visits to regional museums and private collections as relevant.
Area: Writing Intensive

AS.389.502. Independent Study- Museum and Society. 1 - 3 Credits.
You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.

AS.389.521. Capstone in Museums and Society. 1 - 3 Credits.
The Capstone allows students to develop and carry out their own, hands-on research project in a museum, collection, archive, or other living resource. Final projects must involve some form of public presentation (exhibition, lecture, poster, web-based, etc.) and a work of self-reflection (journal, brief paper, blog, or other). Projects must be approved and overseen by a supervising faculty member and approved by the Program’s Director, in keeping with the University’s Independent Work Policy. Instructor permission required.
You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.

AS.389.522. Capstone in Museum and Society. 1 - 3 Credits.
The Capstone allows students to develop and carry out their own, hands-on research project in a museum, collection, archive, or other living resource. Final projects must involve some form of public presentation (exhibition, poster, web-based, etc.) and a work of self-reflection (journal, brief paper, blog, or other). Projects must be approved and overseen by a supervising faculty member and approved by the Program’s Director, in keeping with the University’s Independent Work Policy.
You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.