Women's Public History

Spring 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor Email Class Time

Cady Hammer cahammer@uh.edu Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:30 pm

Office Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-4 pm; by appointment

General Information

Description

Even in the 21st century, women's history is still being left out of the 'mainstream' historical narrative. Although research in the subfield has been growing since the mid-20th century, it is still light-years behind other historical areas. This course will introduce you to how women's stories are being communicated through public history practices. We will explore examples of women's public history through various categories of public historical interpretation and discuss the challenges of conducting women's history research and creating projects related to those topics. By the end of the course, you will have the opportunity to make your own contribution to the field through the creation of a physical or digital exhibit plan of your own.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will:

- Evaluate a wide range of women's public history projects to identify the various manners in which they engage with the public and to what degree of success.
- Understand the challenges of engaging in women's public history and how various historians are combatting those issues.
- Produce an exhibit plan of your own that illuminates women's history at an existing institution of your choosing.

Course Materials

Required Texts

The only books that I will require you to have on hand are the following:

Huyck, Heather. Doing Women's History in Public: A Handbook for Interpretation at Museums and Historic Sites. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2020.

Summers, John. *Creating Exhibits That Engage: A Manual for Museums and Historical Organizations*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2018.

Everything else I will provide to you via Canvas.

Course Requirements and Grade Breakdown

Course Requirements

Reading Summaries, Reflections, and Evaluations: The bulk of your grade in this class will be based on your week-to-week coursework and your responses to it. Every week, you will be responsible for producing two reading summaries for each class day's reading assignments. I don't want to tie you down to a specific word count for these summaries because of the varying lengths of different readings, but I do expect to see approximately a five- to seven-sentence paragraph per reading for works that are over ten pages and at three- to five-sentence summaries for works under ten pages. Additionally, every Friday, you will submit a reflection page of at least 300 words that will share your thoughts on the week's readings as well as discussions that were held in class. For additional participation points, you can submit a longer reflection (see Participation and Attendance section for more information). For certain weeks, you will also be tasked with searching for and evaluating women's public history examples from different categories. Those will be due by Thursday's class time and should be at least 500 words.

Participation and Attendance: Attendance and participation are important components of any undergraduate course. I want you to be present in class and engaging with the material as much as possible. That being said, I do understand that undergraduate life can be very difficult and may require you to miss class, whether due to other coursework and project deadlines, physical illnesses, or requiring a mental health day to get you through the next several weeks. Therefore, you can have three absences in this class for any reason, no questions asked. All that I ask is that you give me a heads up as best as you can or get back to me shortly after in extenuating circumstances. Please also refer to the Excused Absence Policy listed later in the syllabus. If you do miss two classes in the same week, I do require that you schedule a meeting with me once you return to speak about the coursework that you missed.

For in-class participation, I am also relatively flexible. I do want every student to make an effort to speak during class discussions and offer answers to my questions during lectures. I also expect every student to speak multiple times throughout the semester. However, for those of you who don't always feel comfortable volunteering answers in class, I want to offer alternative opportunities for you to receive full participation points. Because of this, I will take into count reflection submissions that are 500 words or more. Remember: this does not negate speaking up in class, but I hope that it will relieve some anxiety surrounding participation grades.

Midterm Essay: You will write a 4-5-page essay that offers an evaluation of three successful women's history projects or exhibits. These examples can fall under any category of public history that you choose (for example, museum exhibit, digital history project, archival collection, oral history collection, etc.). This essay will be due on **Friday, March 20**th **by 5 pm.** (Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced) More details to come later in the semester.

Final Project: Your final project in this course will be to create a physical or digital exhibit that captures women's history at an existing museum that you feel lacks women's history content or could use additional programming. You can choose any museum that you want as long as they have ties to a person, location, or event that you will be able to conduct extensive research into. This will be a noholds-barred, no budget needed project (though you will need to stay within objects and resources that currently exist and are known). You will create an exhibit overview, an exhibit narrative, and a list of at least ten objects or images and four primary source documents that your exhibit will feature, with accompanying label text for each that presents details for each item and places it in context with the rest of the exhibit. You will also submit a visual component, whether that is a brief sketch of the

exhibit's layout or a digital model or representation. More details to come later in the semester. Your final project will be due on **Friday**, **May 2**nd **by 5 pm**.

Final Presentation: Your final presentation will be a substantial preview of your exhibit for the class to observe and offer constructive feedback on before the final project deadline. This should involve a PowerPoint presentation and will be approximately 7-8 minutes per student. Presentations will be held on **April 22**nd and **April 24**th.

Grade Breakdown

• Reading Summaries, Reflections, and Evaluations: 30%

• Participation and Attendance: 15%

Midterm Essay: 20%Final Project: 25%Final Presentation: 10%

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Exercises
Week 1 January 14 th	Introduction to the Course	Read over syllabus.	Write a brief introduction of yourself to me and the class. Answer the following questions:
January 16 th	Introduction to Women's Public History	"About The Field." National Council on Public History, June 28, 2022. https://ncph.org/what-is-public history/about-the-field/. White, Anna. "What Schools Teach About Women's History Leaves a Lot to Be Desired." Smithsonian Magazine, March 2019. https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-schools-teach-womens-history-180971447/.	example of public history (museum/ historic site/archi ve, etc.)

Week	Topic	Reading	Exercises
		Mayo, Edith P. "Women's History and Public History: The Museum Connection." The Public Historian 5, no. 2 (1983): 63-73. https://doi.org/10.2307/3377257.	answers!)
		Barbara Melosh, "Speaking of Women: Museums' Representation of Women's History," History Museums in the United States: A Critical Assessment, Edited by Warren Leon and Roy Rosenzweig, (Urbana: University of Illinois Press), 1989, 183-214.	tills week.
		Chapter 1 from <i>Doing Women's History in Public</i> : "Why Women's History Matters"	
Week 2	Researching Women's History		
January 21 st		Chapter 2 from <i>Doing Women's History in Public</i> : "Researching Women's History"	Reading Summary
		Chapter 3 from Doing Women's History in Public: "Written Sources: Read All About Her."	
January 23 rd		Choose two articles to read from the <i>Journal of Women's History</i> . https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/100 .	Summary
Week 3	Oral History, Collective Memory, and Writing Women's History		
January 28 th		Chapter 4 from <i>Doing Women's History in Public</i> : "Oral Sources: Listening and Recording"	Reading Summary

Topic Reading **Exercises** Week

> Chapter 9 from Doing Women's History in Public: "Preservation: From Great-Grandmothers to Great-Granddaughters"

> Shopes, Linda. "When Women Interview Women - And Then Publish It: Reflections on Oral History, Women's History, and Public History." Journal of Women's History 6, no. 1 (1994): 98-108.

https://doi.org/10.1353/jowh.20 10.0242.

Lang, Luciana, Laura Fenton, and Penny Tinkler. "Living with Other Women's Lives: 'Research Resonance' in the Context of Life History Interviewing." Women's History Review, (2023), 1-16. doi:10.1080/09612025.2023.2288 304.

January 30th

Bowden, Caroline. "Collecting the Lives of Early Modern Women Religious: Obituary Writing and the Development of Collective Memory and Corporate Identity." Find one oral Women's History Review 19, no. 1 (2010): 7-20. doi:10.1080/09612020903444619. women's history

Watts, Ruth. "Collecting Women's Lives in 'National' History: Opportunities and Challenges in Writing for the ODNB." Women's History Review women's history 19, no. 1 (2010): 109-24. doi:10.1080/09612020903444700. for a women's

"Writing Women's Histories" section of Women's History, Spring 2021 edition. https://womenshistorynetwork.o rg/product/womens-historyspring-2021/.

Reading Summary

Evaluation: history project that focuses on and evaluate its goals and current successes. Then find one additional article on writing or a book review history topic and summarize it. Be prepared to share these in class.

Reflection

Week	Topic	Reading	Exercises
Week 4	Women's History Collections		
February 4 th		Chapter 5 from <i>Doing Women's History in Public</i> : "Visual Sources: Pictures, Maps, and Photos"	Reading Summary
		Chapter 8 from <i>Doing Women's History in Public</i> : "Objects: Who Packed This Lunch Bucket?"	
February 6 th		Luckins, Tanja. "Collecting Women's Memories: The Australian War Memorial, the next of Kin and Great War Soldiers' Diaries and Letters as	Reading Summary
		Objects of Memory in the 1920s and 1930s." Women's History Review 19, no. 1 (2010): 21-37. doi:10.1080/09612020903444635	Evaluation: Explore museum exhibits and collections online and find two
		Brandon, Laura. "Looking for the 'Total' Woman in Wartime: A Museological Work in Progress." In Gender, Sexuality, and Museums: A Routledge Reader, edited by Amy K. Levin. London: Routledge, 2010.	relate to women's history. How are museums
			them, how would you use them? What items should these museums be collecting to capture women's stories in their collections under their chosen missions?
			Reflection
Week 5	Public History Applications Week 1: Research Projects, Historic Preservation, and Historic Sites		

Week	Topic	Reading	Exercises
February 11 th		Chapter 6 from <i>Doing Women's History in Public</i> : "Landscapes: Fields and Gardens"	Reading Summary
		Chapter 7 from <i>Doing Women's History in Public</i> : "Architecture: The Built Environment"	
February 13 th		Miller, Page Putnam. "Women's History Landmark Project: Policy and Research." <i>The Public Historian</i> 15, no. 4 (1993): 82-88 https://doi.org/10.2307/3378641.	Summary Evaluation: Find
		Chhaya, Priya. "Interpreting Women's History at Historic Sites: An Introduction." National Trust for Historic Preservation, September 13, 2017. https://savingplaces.org/stories-interpreting-womens-history-at-historic-sites-an-introduction .	history projects, articles, etc.) or
		West, Patricia. "Uncovering and Interpreting Women's History At Historic House Museums." In Restoring Women's History Through Historic Preservation, edited by Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.	and evaluate their effectiveness. What do you think they accomplish well? What would you add to the project/content or do differently?
		Goodman, Jennifer B. "Best Practices For Saving Women's Heritage Sites: Nonprofit Case Studies." In <i>Restoring Women's</i> History Through Historic Preservation, edited by Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.	Reflection
Week 6	Public History Applications Week 2: Museums and		

Week **Topic** Reading **Exercises**

> Curation, Archives, and Digital History

Reading Summary

February 18th

Chapter 10 from Doing Women's History in Public: "Interpretation: Sharing Women's History with Visitors"

Bonnie Hurd Smith, "Women's Voices: Reinterpreting Historic House Museums," in Her Past Around Us: Interpreting Sites for Women's History (Malabar, Fla: Krieger Pub Co, 2003), 87-101.

Mayo, Edith. "Putting Women In Their Place: Methods and Sources For Including Women's History In Museums and Historic Sites." In Restoring Women's History Through Historic Preservation, edited by Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.

February 20th

Freeland, Jane, and Christina von Hodenberg. "Archiving, Exhibiting, and Curating the History of Feminisms in the Global Twentieth Century: An Introduction." Women's History Summary Review 33, no. 1 (2024): 1-6. doi:10.1080/09612025.2023.2208 401.

Mackie, Vera, and Sharon Crozier-De Rosa. "Rallying Women: Activism, Archives and Affect." Women's History Review and primary 31, no. 6 (2022): 975-1001. doi:10.1080/09612025.2022.2090 and its overall 711.

Reading

Evaluation: Find one exhibit that focuses on women's history. Evaluate its goals, what items sources it uses, narrative story and that

Week	Topic	Reading	Exercises
		Hamilton, Paula, and Mary Spongberg. "Twenty Years On: Feminist Histories and Digital Media." Women's History Reviev 26, no. 5 (2017): 671-77. doi:10.1080/09612025.2016.116 399.	
		Bishop, Catherine. "The Serendipity of Connectivity: Piecing Together Women's Lives in the Digital Archive." Women's History Review 26, no. 5 (2017): 766-80. doi:10.1080/09612025.2016.116.883.	5
Week 7	Other Forms of Public Engagement		
February 25 th		"Public Engagement" section of Women's History, Spring 2021 edition. https://womens-history-spring-2021/ .	Reading Summary
		Logan, Anne. "Participatory Historical Research with a Women's Club." Women's Historical (Spring 2021), 33-36. https://womenshistorynetwork.rg/womens-history-today-spring 2023-issue/.	<u>0</u>
		Coughlin, Mimi. "Women and History: Outside the Academy." The History Teacher 40, no. 4 (2007): 471–79. http://www.jstor.org/stable/30037044 .	<u>7</u>
February 27 th		Dubrow, Gail Lee. "Claiming Public Space for Women's Histor	у

Week	Topic	Reading Exercises
		in Boston: A Proposal for Reading Preservation, Public Art, and Summary Public Historical Interpretation." Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies 13, no. 1 (1992): 111-48. https://doi.org/10.2307/3346948 Evaluation: Find one additional article that discusses Lockyer, Bridget, and Abigail Tazzymant. "Victims of History': historians and Challenging Students' Perceptions women's public of Women in History." Teaching historians engage
		History, no. 165 (2016): 8–15. http://www.jstor.org/stable/26384 during their research and creation processes.
		Nittle, Nadra. "U.S. History Classes Are Mostly about Men. Two Teachers Are Looking to Change That." The 19th News, September 25, 2023. https://19thnews.org/2023/09/ap- Summarize the article. Then discuss how you would engage the public on these types of projects.
Week 8	Case Studies	us-womens-history-course/.
Week o	case studies	Sharing Stories:
March 4 th		 Explore Website and read at least four biographies from different states: https://sharingstories197 7.uh.edu/ Read: Jones, Caitlyn.
		Smithsonian American Women's History Museum
		 Explore Website and read at least three blog posts:

Week	Topic	Reading	Exercises
		https://womenshistory. edu/ • Explore Digital Exhibitio https://www.becomingvible.si.edu/	n:
March 6 th		 Explore website: https://www.girlmuseur org/ Go through at least one full digital exhibition: https://www.girlmuseur org/view/exhibitions/ Read at least two blog posts: https://www.girlmuseur org/blog/ 	<u>m.</u>
		 Explore the museum's website, physical exhibi and digital collections: https://womensmuseuma.org/# Read at least two blog posts: https://womensmuseuma.org/our-blogs/ 	<u>nc</u>
Week 9			
SPRING BREAK		SPRING BREAK	
Week 10 March 18 th	Creating Physical Exhibits	Sections from: Creating Exhibit That Engage: A Manual for Museums and Historical Organizations. - Chapter 1: The Nature of Exhibits, pgs 3-12 - Chapter 2: Audience, pg 13-19 - Chapter 4: The Big Idea, pgs 31-35	Summary f s

Week	Topic	Reading	Exercises
March 20 th		Sections from: Creating Exhibits That Engage: A Manual for Museums and Historical Organizations. - Chapter 7: Interpretative Planning, pgs 54-61 - Chapter 8: Text, pgs 62- 76 - Chapter 10: Design, pgs 89-115 - Chapter 11: Curatorship, pgs 116-124	Summary
Week 11	Creating Digital Exhibit		
March 25 th		Lambert, Joe. Digital Storytellin Cookbook. Digital Diner Pres, 2010. https://wrd.as.uky.edu/sites/deault/files/cookbook.pdf.	
March 27 th		Barber, John F. "Digital Storytelling: New Opportunities for Humanities Scholarship and Pedagogy." Cogent Arts & Humanities 3, no. 1 (2016). https://doi.org/10.1080/2331193.2016.1181037.	exhibit of any
			Reflection

Week	Topic	Reading	Exercises
Week 12	Library Research Days	This week, we will be meeting in the library to start researching	
April 1 st		for your final projects.	Work on developing your
April 3 rd			final project. Be prepared to meet with me individually next week to go over your ideas with me for approval.
Week 13	Project Meetings	This week, I will be scheduling individual project meetings	Work on developing your
April 8 th		during class time with each of you. Otherwise, this is a free research week.	final project.
April 10 th			
Week 14			
April 15 th	NO CLASS - FREE RESEARCH DAY		Prepare to share the status of your research project in small groups in class on April 17 th .
April 17 th	Collaborative Feedback		
Week 15	Final Presentations		
April 22 nd			Final Presentations
April 24 th			due

Final Project due by 5 pm on Friday, May 2^{nd}

Additional information and resources

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off campus. For assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The <u>Student Health Center</u> offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The <u>A.D. Bruce Religion Center</u> offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on wellbeing.

Need Support Now? If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org.

Academic Honesty Policy

High ethical standards are critical to the integrity of any institution, and bear directly on the ultimate value of conferred degrees. All UH community members are expected to contribute to an atmosphere of the highest possible ethical standards. Maintaining such an atmosphere requires that any instances of academic dishonesty be recognized and addressed. The UH Academic Honesty Policy is designed to handle those instances with fairness to all parties involved: the students, the instructors, and the University itself. All students and faculty of the University of Houston are responsible for being familiar with this policy.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexualmisconduct/resources/.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please

contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: https://uh.edu/accessibility/, calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

Excused Absence Policy

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston <u>Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy</u> and <u>Graduate Excused Absence Policy</u> for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to <u>military service</u>, <u>religious holy days</u>, <u>pregnancy and related conditions</u>, and <u>disability</u>.

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the <u>Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center</u>. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Security Escorts and Cougar Ride

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. The security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety, please call 713-743-3333. Arrangements may be made for special needs.

Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called "Cougar Ride" that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at https://uh.edu/afuniversity-services/parking/cougar-ride/.

Syllabus Changes

Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email and Canvas announcements.