

History 460
Internship in Public History— Spring 2010

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Course Description and Objectives:

The Department of History's internship gives majors the opportunity to make deliberate connections between academic courses and related work experience in the Memphis community. Internships allow students to apply their knowledge and love of history by working in local archives, museums, or with preservation agencies. In this way, students understand gain practical experience to complement their liberal education.

By the end of the semester, students should have a basic knowledge of the history of Memphis, a general understanding of how historians outside of the academy practice their craft, and be able to reflect upon the connections between their academic coursework and their experiences as interns.

Requirements, Assignments, and Grading:

- Registration in History 460 for 4 credits.
- A log of the number of hours worked, as well as the general tasks performed, for each day. Interns must work 148 total hours. (Note: If your office is closed for a public holiday and you cannot work, you may count the hours you would have worked. However, if you do not work during a Rhodes vacation—Fall Break—you are responsible for making up those hours.)
- Two short essays described below.
- A final presentation that reflects on your overall experience as an intern.
- All written work is pledged under the Rhodes College Honor Code.
- History 460 does not count toward a major or minor in history and is graded pass or fail. Successful completion of History 460 fulfills the Foundation #11 (connections) requirement.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments:

Memphis History: An Overview

Jan. 14 – Introduction to course/History of Memphis, I

Jan. 19 – History of Memphis, II –

- Read: Bond and Sherman, *Memphis in Black and White*, chaps. 1-7
- This week: Contact your site supervisor.

Doing History in Memphis

Jan. 21 – Discussion: History and the Public

- Bond and Sherman, *Memphis in Black and White*, chaps. 8-14

Jan. 26 – Discussion: A Sense of History –

- Read: “For Us the Living’: Visits to Civil Rights Museums,” *Southern Cultures* (2008), 52-67.
- Read: Robert E. Stipe, “Why Preserve?” in *A Richer Heritage: Historic Preservation in the Twenty-first Century* (2003).
- This week: Begin working at your site.

[There will be no class meetings again until Mar. 9.]

Feb. 25 – Preliminary Essay Due.

- Describe and evaluate your internship experience to this point
- 800-1000 words
- Submit essay via email by 5 p.m.

Mar. 9 – Mid-Semester Discussion: Challenges of Public History in Memphis

- Come prepared to discuss what you have learned about Memphis history and doing history in Memphis. The questions we formulated in January will form the basis of our discussion.

[There will be no class meetings again until Apr. 27.]

Mar. 30 – Review Essay Due

- Summarize and critique an article from *The Public Historian* (found on J-STOR) that in some way relates to your work or to your site. Explain how this essay relates to the work you have been doing.
- 1000-1500 words
- Submit essay via email by 5 p.m.

Apr. 27-Apr. 29 - Final Presentations

- Ten-fifteen minute Powerpoint presentation on your internship. This should include a statement of your initial expectations, a description of the purpose and mission of your organization/institution, a description of your experiences as an intern or the project you completed during your internship, a reflection on how your academic courses (both inside and outside of the Department of History) related to your work, and an overall assessment of what you have learned and how you have benefitted from the experience.
- Submit completed logs by Apr. 29.