

History 460 Internship in Public History– Fall 2010

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Course Description and Objectives:

The internship in public history gives history majors the opportunity to make deliberate connections between their academic course work and related work experience in the Memphis community. Public history interns work in local archives, museums, or preservation agencies. By the end of the semester, interns should have a basic knowledge of the history of Memphis and a general understanding of how public historians practice their craft.

Requirements, Assignments, and Grading:

In order to achieve a passing grade in History 460, interns must

- Register for History 460 for 4 credits.
- Attend a minimum of nine of the ten scheduled class sessions listed below.
- Submit a log of hours worked, as well as the general tasks performed, for each day. Interns must work 140 total hours.
- Submit the two brief essays described below.
- Make 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. Successful completion of History 460 fulfills the Foundation #11 (connections) requirement.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments:

Memphis History: An Overview

Aug. 26 – Introduction to course/The Mississippi and the Delta

- Contact your site supervisor.

Aug. 31 – Memphis in the Nineteenth Century

- Read: Bond and Sherman, *Memphis in Black and White*, chaps. 1-7

Sept. 2 – Memphis in the Twentieth Century

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

Public History: An Overview

Sept. 7 – History and the Public: The Issues

- Read: Rosenzweig and Thelen, “Patterns of Popular Historymaking,” in the *Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life* (1998).

Sept. 9 – Museums

- Read: “‘For Us the Living’: Visits to Civil Rights Museums,” *Southern Cultures* (2008), 52-67.

Sept. 14 – Archives – Guest Speaker: Wayne Dowdy, Memphis Public Library

Sept. 16 – Preservation

- Read: Robert E. Stipe, “Why Preserve?” in *A Richer Heritage: Historic Preservation in the Twenty-first Century* (2003).

[There will be no class meetings again until Oct. 26.]

Sept. 28 – Preliminary Essay Due.

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

Oct. 26 – 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 September will form the basis of our discussion.

[There will be no class meetings again until Nov. 30.]

Nov. 16 – 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.

Nov. 30 & Dec. 2 – 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 Dec. 2.