Coalition for Museum Learning
A consortium for visual literacy and audience engagement

Johnson County Museum
Kansas City Art Institute
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art
National Museum of Toys and Minatures
National World War I Museum
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Wornall/Majors House Museums

Course Outline

Museums, Historical Sites and Cultural Places
What are the origins of the Museums we know today and how have they evolved over time? How are Museums governed and what careers are found in the museum environment? What are the ethical principles, policies, procedures, and practices that inform how collections are acquired, cared for, exhibited, and interpreted? Explore these behind-the-scenes activities and more to learn about the diverse world of Museums, Historical Sites and Cultural Places. The course will expand participants’ knowledge about the organizational structure of museums, the audiences they serve, the range of activities they pursue, and the people behind those activities: staff, members of the governing body, and volunteers.

Module: Professional Practice

Pre-Requisites: None


Course Objectives:

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<th>The student will:</th>
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<td>Learn how Museums came into existence and their evolution into what we know today</td>
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<td>Understand commonly used Museum terms and their definitions</td>
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<td>Gain an understanding of ethics that Museum staff and volunteers abide by</td>
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<td>Learn how collections are acquired, cared for, exhibited, and interpreted</td>
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<td>Learn about the audiences museums serve</td>
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<td>Learn about career opportunities in the museum field, both paid and unpaid</td>
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Agenda:

- Discussion and handout: Museum terminology defined
- History of Museums and how their activities developed
- Careers within Museums
- Ethics that Museum staff and volunteers abide by
- Use of Museum collections: Education, Research, Exhibition and museum sites
- Museums trends today (to be covered in greater depth in additional courses)

Practical Application:

- Create an awareness and appreciation of the history and evolution of Museums
- Understand behind-the-scenes activities of Museums
- Recognize museums as educational resources, economic drivers and cultural community anchors

Greater Kansas City Coalition for Museum Learning/Kansas City Art Institute/2014