

Students in Public exemplar details

Faculty, School and Subject Area: University College for Interdisciplinary Learning

Course Unit/activity: UCIL22302 Curating Culture

Course Unit Director/activity leader: Janette Martin, UoML

Course details

'Sometimes you have to climb a mountain to properly curate a sock' David Balzer

Discover how curators collect, select and exhibit material, from ancient Egypt to Electronica, in order to create inspirational experiences.

Gain skills in researching and delivering a cultural activity and writing for a public audience. Work with educational outreach teams to engage and inspire young people. Visit leading cultural institutions to learn from the experts about how collections are cared for and preserved. Bringing all these learning experiences together, you will take part in practical assessments such as blogging, copy writing and delivering public engagement events such as tours and educational activities.

You will come away from this course with enhanced communication skills and the ability to present complex ideas that captivate and educate your audience.

This course unit is based around the rich collections of the John Rylands Library, the Manchester Museum and Whitworth Art Gallery.

Through this course you will gain insight into how organisations such as specialist libraries, museums and art galleries operate.

Assessment

Students will curate an exhibition case. Interpretation panel and object labels. (Individual work: worth 50% of mark);

EITHER: Students develop a plan for a 15 minute collection encounter for the general public, and deliver this session to their peers. (Group work: 3 sides A4 for plan, 15 minute delivery, 50% of mark)

OR: Students develop an educational workshop linked to either a specific collection or current John Rylands Library exhibition and deliver this session to their peers. (Group work: 3 sides A4 for plan, 15 minute delivery, 50% of mark).

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the key concepts of why individuals, societies and organisations collect cultural artefacts, how 'value' is attributed to them and what decisions inform the selection process
2. Develop an awareness of ethical, cultural and conservation issues involved in collecting and exhibiting material
3. Critically evaluate exhibitions and other public engagement activities based around cultural and heritage material
4. Present ideas involving cultural and heritage material in creative and innovative ways
5. Deliver engagement activities which are sensitive and accessible to a wide range of audiences.