

ARH 6836 Museum Exhibitions Seminar

Spring 2025 | Thursday | Period 3 - 5 (9:35 AM - 12:35 PM)

Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler

Email: l.s.wheeler@ufl.edu *

Office Hours: [By appointment only](#), in person or via Zoom

**Email responses will be only during business hours (M-F 8:00am-5:00pm) and within 48 business hours of receipt.*

U Matter. We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu> or (352) 392-1575

University Police Department: (352) 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1161.

Course Description:

This seminar examines exhibitions in theory and practice. It looks beyond the work of curators, to include the many roles involved in production including conceptualization, selection, interpretation, outreach, and politics of display. Students will use a collaborative approach, similar to that of many institutions, to produce a physical exhibition for local GLAM institutions. Guest speakers, site visits, and readings will be included.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

- Research, develop, and curate a physical exhibition for local GLAM institutions
- Develop professional research, writing, and communication skills for a collaborative environment
- Connect theories presented in readings to the contemporary purpose of exhibitions

Recommended Text:

Piacente, Maria. 2022. *Manual of Museum Exhibitions*. Third edition. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Serrell, Beverly and Katherine Whitney. 2015. *Exhibit labels: an interpretive approach*. Second Edition. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.

Required readings are available on RESERVE through the UF Libraries or uploaded to CANVAS. Note that some items on e-reserve may have a limited number of simultaneous users.

Readings will be discussed in class. Whether you read in print or digitally, please plan accordingly to contribute to class discussions.

Class Policies:

Students are allowed one excused absence. Please see me to discuss any attendance or participation issues. I am happy to problem-solve with you in order for you to be supported and balance school-life as best as possible.

Plagiarism and the Honor Code:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Online Course Evaluation:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results>

Grading:

A	94-100		C	74-76
A-	90-93		C-	70-73
B+	87-89		D+	67-69
B	84-86		D	64-66
B-	80-83		D-	60-63
C+	77-79		F	0-59

For questions about how grade points are assigned by the University, go to: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Evaluation:

Individual Contribution	10 points	10%
Design Journal	10 points	10%
Exhibit Review and Presentation	20 points	20%
Exhibit Labels (individual writing)	20 points	20%
Final Project & Presentation	40 points	40%

Individual Contribution (10 points | 10%)

Although students are expected to participate fully in each class, class participation will not be graded. However, participation in your group projects will be essential to success and therefore individual group contributions will be graded. Collaboration and respect are of the utmost importance.

Exhibit Design Notebook / Bullet Journal (10 points | 10%)

DUE April 17, 2025

Because a large amount of work will be done collaboratively and outside of class, students are required to keep a design notebook (handwritten or typed). This should be a record of work and creative processes including brainstorming ideas, drafts, research notes, team meeting notes, museum and site visits, etc. It should also include weekly reflections on the collaborative exhibition process.

Exhibit Review and Presentation (20 points | 20%)

DUE March 27, 2025

Students will review and evaluate a digital or physical exhibition from the GLAM community. The written review will be 3-5 pages (not including images), 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman, 12 pt. Students will also present their exhibit reviews to the class (10 minutes with visuals).

Exhibit Labels (20 points | 20%)

DUE April 10, 2025

Students will individually write four labels (1 group label; 3 item labels) for their group exhibit. These items and/or labels may be included in the final proposal. Labels should adhere to the [Smathers Style Guide](#) and be consistent with exhibit theme and “big idea.”

Final Project & Presentation (40 points | 40%)

DUE May 1, 2025

All groups will develop an exhibition proposal for a local GLAM institution. Proposals will include an illustrated object checklist with links for full resources, curators’ statement, positionality statements, interpretive text, and exhibit layout and design. Complete proposals will be presented to the class and exhibit stakeholders at the end of the semester.

Course schedule and readings subject to change.
Check CANVAS modules weekly for the most up-to-date information.

WEEK 1	January 16 Intro
WEEK 2	January 23 Collaboration, Conceptualization, and The Big Idea
WEEK 3	January 30 Storytelling and Better Exhibits
WEEK 4	February 6 Universal Design
WEEK 5	February 13 Language
WEEK 6	February 20 Labels
WEEK 7	February 27 More Labels
WEEK 8	March 6 Copyright and Fair Use
WEEK 9	March 13 Experiences
WEEK 10	March 20 SPRING BREAK
WEEK 11	March 27 Evaluation
WEEK 12	April 3 Digital Delivery
WEEK 13	April 10 Research
WEEK 14	April 17 Roles
WEEK 15	April 24 Final presentations