

Practical Training in Curating.

Tami Rich

2 Credit points

Thursdays: 9:30 -11:30

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The Atlit detainee camp was a detention camp established by the authorities of the British Mandate for Palestine at the end of the 1930s in what is now Israel's northern coast, 20 kilometers south of Haifa. The camp was established to prevent Jewish refugees from entering Palestine. Tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants were interned at the camp, which was surrounded by barbed wire and watchtowers. The Atlit camp is now a national heritage site, serving as a museum for thousands of visitors each year. The seminar aims at familiarizing the students with conceptual and practical aspects of historical representation at a heritage site such as Atlit, while providing them with a unique opportunity for practical experience in curating. Its aim is to introduce students to the world of historical representation in exhibition and museum spaces.

Course description

The course is comprised of 3 main components, designed to develop curatorial skills in the historical space. The first module will explore the historical background of Holocaust survivors' struggle to immigrate and integrate into the Land Of Israel, after the war. Students will study the period of Aliyah B, with an emphasis on the Ha'apalah Movement under the British Mandate and the Zionist Movements' involvement in leading the refugees to settle in Palestine. The second and third components of this course will focus on developing practical skills in curating museum exhibitions. Students will learn a variety of methods essential for working in museum spaces. From conservation of objects and artefacts, to developing exhibition spaces in both museums and heritage sites, students will gain a solid foundation in basic museum work, with an emphasis on educational programming. This course will be taught both on Haifa University campus and on site at the Atlit Detention Camp, where the practical components will be explored.

The Course will be taught from the Atlit Detention Camp Heritage Site, with the exception of 2 historical lectures to be held at Haifa University Campus.

Classes at Haifa will be weeks 2 &3 – October 29th and November 5th.

Course Requirements

Weekly Readings:

Students will be required to read the set texts for each component of the course. The series of texts have been compiled to provide students with a general historical background to the time period surrounding the Atlit Detention Camp during the British Mandate. The Second half of the course will provide students with readings which develop a firm understanding of basic museum principles behind curating and developing educational programs for the museum space.

Class Participation:

Active attendance in at least ten weeks of the course is required.

Oral Presentation:

Students will be required to give a 10 minute presentation to the class. Topics to be chosen in class on week 4.

Written Assignment:

A written assignment of 1 -2 pages outlining a Significance Statement will be due on Week 9 of the course.

Group Exhibition:

The class will collectively participate in designing and producing a travelling exhibition.

Attendance and participation – 20%

Oral Presentation – 20%

Written assignment – 30%

Contribution to Exhibition – 30%

Curating Course Readings

Week 1: Atlit Handbook

Week 2: "The Genesis of the Mandate", in: Naomi Shepherd, Ploughing Sand, British Rule in Palestine 1917-1948.

Week 3: Zeev Tzahor, "Holocaust Survivors as a Political Factor", Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 24, no.4 (Oct. 1988), pp.432-444.

Week 4: Lord and Piacente. *"Manual of Museum Exhibitions"* Second Edition. [Rowman & Littlefield UK, 2014] Chapter 8. Pages 133-134 and 138-140 "Idea Exhibitions and Living History Exhibitions"

Week 5: Tilden, F. *"Interpreting Our Heritage"* Third Edition. [University of North Carolina Press, 1977]Part 1

Week 6: Lord and Piacente. *"Manual of Museum Exhibitions"* Second Edition. [Rowman & Littlefield UK, 2014] Chapter 12 page 207-216 "Travelling Exhibitions"

Week 7: Durbin, G. "Developing Museum Exhibitions for Lifelong learning" [The Stationery Office for Museum Education. London, 1996] Page 10-15 "Educators on Exhibit Teams"

Week 8: Kelly, S. *"NETS. Travelling Exhibitions"* Second Edition. [NETS Victoria, 2002] page 13-23 "Touring the Exhibit.

Week 9: Lord and Piacente. *"Manual of Museum Exhibitions"* Second Edition. [Rowman & Littlefield UK, 2014] Chapter 2 page 7 -18 "Purpose of Museum Exhibitions"

Week 10: Lord and Piacente. *"Manual of Museum Exhibitions"* Second Edition. [Rowman & Littlefield UK, 2014] Page 269 – 280 "Collection, Research and Exhibition Text"

Week 11: McRainey & Russick. *"Connecting Kids to History With Museum Exhibitions"* [Left Coast Press California, 2010] Chapter 11 page 241-256 "Is It Real? Kids and Collections"

Week 12: Ambrose & Paine. *"Museum Basics"* [Routledge, ICOM, London, 2002] page 16 -25 "Museums are For People" "Marketing Understanding Audiences"

Week 13: Logan & Reeves. *"Places of Pain and Shame. Dealing With Difficult Heritage."* [Routledge, New York, 2011] page 1-14 "Introduction"