UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER AND AFRICAN STUDIES

FOURTH YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER 2013/2014 ACADEMIC YEAR

NAF 409: MUSEOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

This course explores the role of museums in society. We will examine the complexity of the museum from cultural, political, curatorial, historical and representational perspectives. We will also look at ethical issues facing museum practice today and the trends and challenges facing museum managers in a changing world.

Course requirements: Continuous assessment tests will constitute 30% and the final examination 70% towards the final grade.

Course outline
Definitions
>   Museology/Museum studies
>   The new museology
>   Galleries/Living Museums etc
History of Museums
>   The idea of museums in different cultures
>   Early museums in Europe
>   Museums in the Renaissance
>   Museums after Renaissance
>   Museums today
Classification of museums
>   Various classificatory schemes e.g. National museums, regional museums, county museums, site museums, cultural museums etc
>   Museums by collections e.g. Art museums, History museums, Natural History museums, Science museums, Ethnographic museums etc.
>   Non-traditional museums e.g. museums looking at violence, human migrations, human rights
Museums and society
>   Museums as centres of educations, heritage and cultural conservation, role of in collective memory, role   of museums in socio-economic development of the local area, museums and tourism
>   Museums and the community, the role of the community in museum practice, the community and ownership of cultural property, international conventions governing cultural property
>   Ethical issues in museum management

Exhibitions and Exhibit development

       Different kinds of museum exhibits: permanent vs. temporary exhibits, thematic exhibits, travelling exhibits etc

       Issues to consider: audience, personnel, security, conservation concerns etc

       Planning and executing an exhibition

Museum management

       Museum staff and professionals: curators, exhibit designers, education specialists etc

       Trends and challenges in museum management

       Professional codes of ethics governing museum management: acquisition and disposal of collections, inter-museum loan schemes, etc

Museum systems in Africa

       A few case studies drawn from some African countries

Course Text: Ambrose, T. and Paine, C. (2003). *Museum Basics*, 2nd Edition. Routledge, London in conjunction with International Council of Museums (ICOM), Paris.

Suggested readings

Alivizatou, M. (2006). Museums and intangible heritage: The dynamics of an 'unconventional' relationship. *Papers from the Institute of Archaeology* **17**: 47-57.

Dodd, J & Sandell, R. (2001). *Including museums: perspectives on museums, galleries and social inclusion*. Research Centre for Museums and Galleries, University of Leicester.

ICOM (2004). *Running a museum: A practical handbook*. International Council of Museums/UNESCO, Paris (Available from the ICOM/UNESCO websites).

Lewis, G. (n.d.). The history of museums. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

MacDonald, G.F. & Alsford, S. (1991). The museum as information utility. *Museum Management and Curatorship (1991),* **10**,305-311.

Maggi, M & Falletti, V. (2000). Ecomuseums in Europe: What they are and what they can be. Working Paper No. 137. Istituto Ricerchee e Economico Sociali del Piemonte.

O'Hagan, J and Duffy, C. (1994). Access and admission charges to museums: A case study of the national museum. *Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland* Vol. **XXVII**:125-152.

Packer, J & Ballantyne, R. (2005). Solitary vs. Shared Learning: Exploring the Social Dimension of Museum Learning. C*urator: The Museum Journal* Vol. **48**, (2): 177-192.

2009. The relations between museology and community development: from the 90's and towards a new century. *Museology and Community Development in the XXI Century* Cadernos de Sociomuseologia N° 29-2009:117 -181.

This reading list is indicative only. Other reading materials will be assigned in class as the needs arise.