



image: Emily Jacir, Ex Libris, 2012

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This participatory museum studies course introduces students to the technical aspects of museum work as well as the ethical ramifications of these methods as they are applied in art, history, and ethnographic museums. The course includes both theoretical and practical components, and moves from introducing students to the history of and debates over the philosophical nature of museums, through a process resulting in the development of a critically sophisticated curated exhibition. The class includes field trips, discussions with professionals in the field, and the study of major exhibit controversies and debates about the politics of memory and visual display.

Students are required to write an essay, to complete a series of short assignments, and to participate in a group assignment. However, 20% of the final grade is based on participation in the exhibition. Each student will assume a specific role in this endeavour and will work closely with the professor, the TA, and other students. A good portion of the work in this class will be

self-directed, and students should be prepared to assume responsibility for their aspect of the final exhibition, and to spend as much time working in remote locations as they do in class.

This course will familiarize students with the debates that shape museum scholarship as well as the various issues central to the preparation and staging of an exhibition. It will provide them with an opportunity to develop their research, writing, and presentation skills. Students will learn to evaluate written texts and exhibitions and think critically about the development and role of museums in Western culture.

All course readings are available on Owl. It is the student's responsibility to letre d

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