

MUSE 315 : Engaging Audiences with Outreach and Interpretation

Do you want to teach kids, give museum tours, become a better speaker, and/or lead outdoor trips? This four-credit course is designed for anyone who wants to lead educational programs for the public or school groups, particularly in settings outside of a classroom. It combines the theoretical foundations of the interpretive profession and the science of teaching and learning with practical skills in delivering quality educational programming for visitors to parks, museums, libraries and other cultural institutions. We will learn about the history, definition, and principles of interpretation; making your programs purposeful, enjoyable, relevant, organized, and thematic; using tangible objects to connect audiences to intangible ideas and universal concepts; audience evaluation; the science of how people learn; reflecting on your teaching practice; presentation and communication skills. Students will complete the requirements to become a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association of Interpretation (official certification from the national board requires an additional fee, though students may also take the course without becoming certified). The course will involve highly active, hands-on learning, and field trips to informal education sites such as museums and nature centers. Major projects include designing and leading interactive educational stations/programs for an external audience, design of educational materials, and audience evaluation. This course satisfies requirements for the Museum Studies and Environmental Sustainability Majors.

Credits 4

Attributes

Upper-Level