I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Guided readings, discussion, and practice in presenting history to audiences outside the academy. (3 credit hours)

II. Prerequisite(s):

Graduate status.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

This course is designed to develop competencies required of professionals in historic preservation, museum and site administration.

During the semester the student in this course should:

1. Read, write, discuss and practice philosophies and methods of preserving and interpreting historical documents, objects, buildings, and landscapes.

2. Think critically about the ways in which history is, and can be, presented to a wide range of audiences.

3. Think critically about the role of history in making decisions about the present and the future.

4. Develop professional-level skills in research and oral and written communication.

IV. Expectations of Students:

Students are expected to read the assigned books and articles, discuss these readings in class, and participate in planning and carrying out projects with classmates. Projects might include exhibits, site interpretation, management plans, interpretive plans, reports, or public presentations. In addition, each student will submit a substantial research paper.

V. Course Content or Outline (Indicating number of class hours per unit or section):

A. History and background of historic preservation. (6 hours)
B. Archives and techniques of research. (6 hours)

C. Museums and exhibits. (9 hours)

D. Interpretation and management of historic sites. (6 hours)

E. Preservation of buildings and cultural landscapes. (9 hours)

F. Heritage education. (9 hours)

VI. Textbook(s) and/or other Required Materials or Equipment:


VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on a research paper (40%), participation in class discussions (20%), and participation in experiential learning projects (40%). The experiential learning component will relate to the instructor’s area of expertise (museums, archives, or documentation and preservation of the built environment).