

Museum Studies Program Guidelines for Directed Research Projects

(CMST 6502/3 credits)

Directed Research (DR) projects are permitted by the Museum Studies Program under special circumstances. By their very nature, DR projects are intended to provide a student with an opportunity for an in-depth research project or special study that will enhance - in a clear and convincing manner - the student's program of study or field of interest. DR projects usually are undertaken with an outside subject specialist, if appropriate, or a GW faculty member, if willing.

Directed Research projects must be cleared in advance of registration by the student's Museum Studies advisor who reviews a formal proposal for the project, accompanied by the curriculum vita (CV) of the project's sponsor. *A formal proposal is a short prospectus (2-3 pages) that describes the project and includes a bibliography.* The sponsor is responsible for providing the Museum Studies Program with a formal evaluation of the project (used for grading) when it is completed.

Directed Research projects are the equivalent of a 3-credit class and therefore must represent a substantial undertaking on the part of the student. ***The student must choose one of two ways to structure his/her Directed Research project:***

Option A: Research Paper. It is expected that the paper exceed 30 pages, including an extensive bibliography. In all instances, the student needs to produce a copy of his/her work in a timely manner for grading by his or her Museum Studies/DR advisor.

Option B: Museum-Based Project (similar to an internship project). It is expected that the student will turn in copies of everything produced for the project, accompanied by written explanation in a folder or notebook.

All paperwork for a DR project goes through the Museum Studies Program Head.

The timetable for completing the project is determined by the student and his/her sponsor. DR projects are usually completed within the semester of registration but on occasion, they may be extended. When that occurs the student receives an "IPG" [In Progress] grade until the study is complete.

The student is responsible for turning in the necessary paperwork, along with the approved project proposal to the Internship Coordinator. The necessary paperwork includes: Directed Research Checklist, Statement of Expectations (Project Proposal) and the supervisor's CV.