



Museums and Society

Museums are very weird places. If you don't think so, you haven't thought about or visited them enough. What are they supposed to do, and what did the people who built them hope to achieve? What strange power do they have that makes us quiet when we walk into them? Why do we have different kinds of museums for different kinds of objects, treating some as "art" and some as "ethnography"? Museums preserve rare artifacts, but can also represent the ruins of colonized cultures. At the same time, landscapes have become museums, embedded with ruins and markers, street signs and names, monuments and historic sites. In other places, people have gone to great lengths to forget, erasing particular histories from public memory. Some landscapes get used for mines, plantations, or industry; others get set aside for exclusive or public use. This course will tackle these issues (and more!) by thinking about museums, preservation, and empire together, in the context of modern Britain, Ireland, and the British Empire. We will have the opportunity to travel to Oxford and London during Spring Break, in order to see some of these places in person. At the end of the semester, HIST 3910 students will put on a pop-up exhibition, so you will put your studies into practice, including audio guides/podcasts, publicity/posters, content creation, and exhibition design.



HIST 3910

COURSE DETAILS

Course Name: Museums and Society

Travel Location: Oxford and London

Travel Dates: 26 Feb-6 March, 2027

Class Time: MW 1:45-3:25pm

Core Designations: Interdisciplinary Connections and Experiential Learning for Mission

Professor: Amy Woodson-Boulton

Lab Fee: \$2,210

Financial assistance available for all BCLA Students

Questions? Email Amy.Woodson-Boulton@lmu.edu or bclaadvising@lmu.edu



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