

Introduction to Cultural Policy
Fall 2016, Fridays 9am – 11:50am
*** working draft 8/8/2016 ***

Instructor: Karen Gahl-Mills
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Course Description:

What are the public policy issues facing arts practitioners in the United States in the 21st century? How will the next generation of arts and culture leaders influence and shape policy beyond seeking appropriations of funds? How can the arts operate both as intrinsically valuable and as key creative tools to apply to tough community issues? Through a combination of lecture/discussion, engagement with leading voices from the field, and scholarly research, this course will provide an overview of cultural policy in the US and explore the evolving intersections of public policy and the arts in the current context.

Course Readings:

- The Politics of Culture, edited by Gigi Bradford, Michael Gary, and Glenn Wallach.
- Engaging Art, edited by Steven J. Tepper and Bill Ivey
- Other scholarly articles, monographs and reports drawn from a wide range of sources across the cultural sector.

Expectations:

Setting clear expectations is the key to any successful working relationship. As students, you can expect the following from me:

- I will come to class prepared and ready to engage in lively (but civil) discussion.
- When I am in class, my attention will be only on our work together.
- I will hold office hours by appointment, and I will do my best to be responsive to your questions.
- I will be clear about the limitations of my expertise and, whenever possible, I will bring other content experts into our learning environment.

I live and work in Cleveland, Ohio, and I travel to Chicago for class each week. Please know that, while I will make every effort to make it to campus, we may need to utilize videoconferencing technology in case of truly inclement weather or other

unforeseen circumstances. I will do my best to avoid this scenario; thanks in advance for your flexibility.

As the instructor, I expect the following from students:

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, to arrive on time, and to attend the entire class meeting period. I will take attendance each week, both at the beginning and at the end of class. If you must miss a class for any reason, please notify me via email before the class begins. If you miss more than one class, your grade may be lowered by one letter grade per class missed. If you miss more than two classes, you may be advised to withdraw.

Participation:

All will benefit from a class in which informed, civil dialog and discussion replace one-way delivery of a lecture. Participation, therefore, will be 30% of your total grade. Participation will be graded as follows:

- Listening actively to discussions / lectures / guest speaker presentations
- Asking questions and participating in dialog during discussions and after guest speaker presentations
- Bringing and displaying a table tent with your name at each class

Your participation grade will suffer if you spend class time multi-tasking, texting, or engaging with social media not related to the class discussion.

Grades:

- Participation (see above) – 30%
- 3 x short (750-1000 word) comparative essays related to specific readings – 30%
- 1 x long (12-15 pages) research paper on a cultural policy-related topic of your choice
 - Thesis & outline, due by beginning of week 5 – 10%
 - Final paper, due week 10 – 30%

Tentative Schedule (subject to revision):

Weeks 1 & 2: Course Overview
History of Cultural Policy in the US
Review of contemporary policy issue sets

Weeks 3 & 4: Issue Set #1: Economic Impact & Cultural Participation

Weeks 5 & 6: Issue Set #2: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Weeks 7 & 8: Issue Set #3: Placemaking, and “Arts And”
Week 9: reading week, no class
Week 10: Course wrapup, final papers due at the beginning of class, 9am