

2016 AAD Curricular Mapping Worksheet

May 31, 2016

Course Title: Ethics in the Arts & Museums
AAD 425/525

Instructor: David Turner

Course Context:

This course is an upper division elective in AAD and most useful for those students pursuing the field of Museum Studies. Ethical decision making would also apply to all fields within Arts Management study. The course is usually offered once every two years, but as the Museum Studies program grows, it may be valuable to offer it every year.

Essential Questions:

- What are the critical steps in the decision making process?
- How does ethics become a layer that strongly guides decisions?
- How do ethical values help create a better cultural organization?
- What happens when decisions or activity fall outside the ethical standards guiding a cultural organization?

Learning Outcomes Summary

- Understanding the factors involved with making decisions for a cultural organization.
- Distinguishing the responsibilities between making personal decisions and organizational decisions.
- Familiarizing students with Codes of Ethics for disciplines related to the arts.
- Introducing the concept of ethics to all phases of an organization's operation.
- Becoming practiced in analyzing the ethical issues inherent to cultural groups.

Learning Outcomes (from your syllabus)

Students who are active participants in the class will be prepared to contribute experiences and familiarity to discussions about ethical issues that have become an important part in the management of cultural art organizations. Critical thinking about issues surrounding best practices will lead to more effective leadership.

Core content/themes/topics:

Ethical decisions are based on good judgment accumulated from knowledge and experience, often forming the basis of discussions leading toward museum/cultural organization policies and the interpretation of legal issues. As museums and cultural organizations act as public institutions who must build trust with its audiences and patrons, high standards of ethical behavior are critical to their success. This course looks at two main areas of ethical decisions for museums and cultural organizations: area of governance, i.e., conflicts of interest, the decision making process, and professional practices; and programs, particularly collections management and exhibitions.

Topics discussed in class:

- What are Ethics and why are they important?
- Governance, Boards, and Leadership

Recommended readings:

(articles and sections from books available online as PDF files)

New Directions in Museum Ethics, Janet Marstine, Alexander Bauer, Chelsea Haines, ,
Routledge, NY, 2014

Museum Ethics, edited by Gary Edson, Routledge, NY, 1997

Ethics and the Visual Arts, edited by Elaine A. King and Gail Levin, Allworth Press, NY,
2006

Merryman, John Henry, "Museum Ethics," American Law Institute, ALI-ABA Course of
Study, 2006

Required Articles:

Allan, Robin J., "After Bridgeman: Copyright, Museums, and Public Domain Works of Art,"
University of Pennsylvania Law Review, Vol. 155:961, 2007. (PDF file on class website)

Cuno, James, "The Case Against Repatriating Museum Artifacts, *Foreign Affairs*,
November/December, 2014. (PDF file on class website)

Gazi, Andromache, "Exhibition Ethics – An Overview of Major Issues, *Journal of
Conservation and Museum Studies*, 2014 12(1): 4, pp 1-10. (PDF file on class website)

Skramstad, Harold and Susan, "Museums and Trusteeship" pp. 9-14, and "Handling Difficult
Board Issues," pp. 9-122, *A Handbook for Museum Trustees* (PDF file on class website)

Smith, Judith G. and Wen Fong, *Issues of Authenticity in Chinese Painting*, Metropolitan
Museum of Art, 1999 (accessible on GoogleBooks)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=maSINPZu_hkC&printsec=frontcover -
v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=maSINPZu_hkC&printsec=frontcover -v=onepage&q&f=false)