

# MUSEUMS, ARCHIVES, AND PUBLIC HISTORY

## Overview and Contact Information

The Nexus in Museums, Archives, and Public History allows students to explore careers which draw specifically on capacities developed in the study of the humanities. These fields require multiple literacies: professionals must be fluent in understanding, analyzing, and communicating about visual artifacts, material culture/objects, historical landscapes, and digital sources. Additionally, students will take four credits of pre- and post-internship courses that facilitate thoughtful engagement with the internship opportunity. While the Nexus certificate requires one internship, a concentration in museums, archives, and public history depends upon internships as a component of professional training, so students undertaking the Nexus should explore a succession of internships at Mount Holyoke and elsewhere in a way that will allow them to develop a significant set of skills.

### Contact Information

**Eleanor Townsley, Nexus director**  
**Sabra Thorner, track chair**  
**Desmond Fitz-Gibbon, track chair**

217G Dwight Hall  
 413-538-3010

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/nexus/public-history-archives-and-museums> (<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/nexus/public-history-archives-and-museums/>)

### Faculty

**This area of study is administered by the following Nexus track chairs:**

Lan Wu, Assistant Professor of History

Sabra Thorner, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Teaching Spring Only

## Requirements for the Nexus

A minimum of 18 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
Three courses above the 100 level chosen from the list of courses approved for this Nexus or selected with approval of the track chair		
Completion of the UAF application stages 1 and 2 <sup>1</sup>		
A substantive internship <sup>2</sup>		
COLL-211	Reflecting Back: Connecting Internship and Research to Your Liberal Arts Education	2
A presentation at LEAP Symposium		
One approved 300-level course from the list of courses approved for this Nexus or selected with approval of the track chair		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

<sup>1</sup> Or a fifth class with approval of the track chair

<sup>2</sup> At least 240 work hours and responsibilities that exercise ability to think analytically and creatively, and contribute meaningfully to the organization's stated mission and complements the student's area of focus

## Additional Specifications

- The sequence of a Nexus is important and part of what makes it unique:
  - In preparation for the summer internship or research, students complete courses chosen in consultation with the track chair. If seeking funding through LYNK UAF, students will additionally complete orientation and advising, and online training.
  - COLL-211 is taken after the internship or research project and culminates in the presentation at LEAP Symposium.
  - The 300-level course following the internship will allow Nexus students to complete a portfolio or project which demonstrates their curatorial abilities.

## Courses Counting toward the Nexus

This is a list of courses with a concentration on collections or archives. Depending upon students' individual interests, they can select other courses than those listed below in consultation with the Nexus track chair.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Anthropology</b>		
ANTHR-316DM	Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Decolonizing Museums'	4
ANTHR-316MU	Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Anthropology in/ of Museums'	4
<b>Art History</b>		
ARTH-242	History of Photography: The First Hundred Years	4
ARTH-271	Arts of Islam: Book, Mosque, and Palace	4
ARTH-300CR	Seminar: 'Critical Approaches to Art Historical Study'	4
ARTH-301MU	Topics in Art History: 'Anthropology in/of Museums'	4
ARTH-310CA	Seminar in Ancient Art: 'Collecting Global Antiquity'	4
ARTH-310GA	Seminar in Ancient Art: 'Designing a Global Gallery of Ancient Art'	4
<b>Computer Science</b>		
COMSC-151HC	Introduction to Computational Problem Solving: 'Humanities Computing'	4
<b>Dance</b>		
DANCE-267	Embodied Archives: Reading, Writing, and Researching Dance	4
<b>English</b>		
ENGL-362	Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group	4
<b>Film, Media, Theater</b>		
FMT-102	Introduction to Film Studies	4
FMT-104	Introduction to Media Studies	4
<b>First-Year Seminars</b>		
FYSEM-110GP	Gender and Power in the History of Mount Holyoke College	4
FYSEM-110LG	Slang: Community/Power/Language	4
FYSEM-110MK	Race in the Marketplace	4
FYSEM-110PC	Op-ed: Writing on Politics, Culture, and the Arts	4
FYSEM-110PE	Performing the Self	4

FYSEM-110PS	Self-Portraiture	4
<b>Geology</b>		
GEOL-201	Rocks and Minerals	4
<b>Gender Studies</b>		
GNDST-204CP	Women and Gender in the Study of Culture: 'Trap Doors and Glittering Closets: Queer/Trans* of Color Politics of Recognition, Legibility, Visibility and Aesthetics'	4
GNDST-241HP	Women and Gender in Science: 'Feminist Health Politics'	4
GNDST-333GS	Advanced Seminar: 'Gender and Sexual Minority Health'	4
GNDST-333SS	Advanced Seminar: 'Gender and Class in the Victorian Novel'	4
<b>History</b>		
HIST-252	History of Money and Finance	4
HIST-283MC	Topics in the Recent History of the United States: 'We Didn't Start the Fire: The United States Since WW II'	4
<b>Italian</b>		
ITAL-221CT	Introduction to Italian Culture and Literature I: 'Cities in the Italian Renaissance'	4
<b>Philosophy</b>		
PHIL-350WU	Topics in Philosophy: 'Women and Utopias'	4
<b>Politics</b>		
POLIT-233	Introduction to Feminist Theory	4
POLIT-255PA	Gender and Power in Global Contexts: 'The Politics of Abortion in the Americas'	4
<b>Religion</b>		
RELIG-271	Arts of Islam: Book, Mosque, and Palace	4