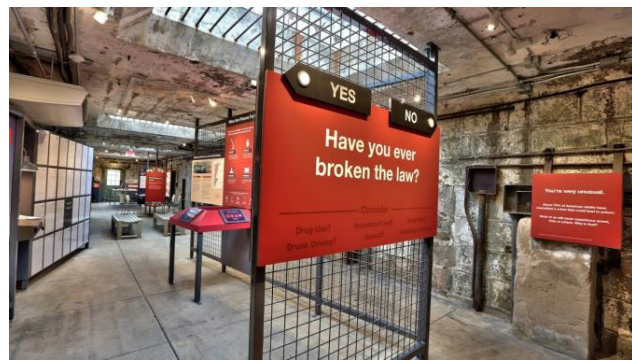


# ARTH 570 Eastern State Penitentiary

Mellon Inclusive City Anchor Institution Seminar

Spring 2019



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Office hours: Weds. 3-5 in Jaffe 202 (make appointments in advance in History of Art office)

Sean Kelley, Senior Vice President and Director of Interpretation, ESP Historic Site, [sk@easternstate.org](mailto:sk@easternstate.org)

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Office hours: by appointment

Eastern State Penitentiary is one of the most famous and influential buildings in the world. Built in the early nineteenth century as an embodiment of the ideals of prison reformers, it is now preserved as a historic site whose award-winning programming explores contemporary issues of mass incarceration and criminal justice, subjects that many Americans believe to be the civil rights issues of our times. Taught in partnership with the staff of Eastern State, this seminar will explore the management of this "anchor institution." Topics to be considered include strategic planning, interpretation of the site, the design of programs and exhibitions (including site-specific art installations and theatrical events), architectural planning and conservation, and engagement with diverse constituencies and neighborhoods. The class will explore notable failures and missteps along with programmatic successes, and will explore ethical choices made when balancing social justice programming and the organization's Halloween-themed fundraising activities.

**Tuesdays at 1:30-4:30 at Eastern State Penitentiary**

## **Assignments (and due dates):**

Assignment 1: two-page paper (due January 29)

Assignment 2a: Soup Alley group oral presentation (March 19)

Assignment 2b: Soup Alley short paper (March 26)

Assignment 3a: research paper proposal (April 2)

Assignment 3b: research paper oral presentation (April 23, 30)

Assignment 3c: 10-page research paper submission (May 8)

## ARTH 570 Schedule

- J22 Introduction: public site tour, abandonment and preservation, tour unrestored area.  
Introduce: Assignment 1: Three most provocative things about the site?
- J29 Historical Overview  
**Assignment 1 due**  
Reading: Johnston, chapters 1-4 **[on reserve]**; Dickens, *American Notes*, chapter 7 **[on Canvas]**.
- F5 Interpreting the site I: early programming  
Reading: Weschler, *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder*, pp. 3-109 **[on reserve and on Canvas]**.
- F12 Interpreting the site II: Current programming (incl. mass incarceration), exhibition planning  
Reading: Interpretive Solutions, "Interpretive Plan for Eastern State Penitentiary" **[on Canvas]**; Kelley, "Beyond Neutrality" **[on Canvas]**; Kelley, "Eastern State Penitentiary: The Ruin Isn't What It Used to Be," in *Evasions of Power*, Slought Foundation, 2007 **[on Canvas]**; Serrell, *Exhibit Labels*, pp. 1-36 **[on Canvas]**;
- F19 Capital planning and projects. Chaplain's office.  
Introduce: Assignment 2: What to do with Death Row? (group project)  
Reading: Center for the Future of Museums, "Trendswatch," 2017 **[on Canvas]**; ESP, Audio Tour, stop 22: Death Row **[on Canvas]**; ESP, "Case for Support: Death Row" **[on Canvas (pending)]**; ESP, Death Row Yard label **[on Canvas]**; Kelley, "The Jury is Out," 2011 **[on Canvas]**; Otterson, "Hands-on History: Death Row," **[on Canvas]**; Zalut, "Hands-on History: Soup Alley," **[on Canvas]**.
- F26 Contemporary issues in criminal justice today. Prison visit prep.  
Introduce: Assignment 3 (Research paper)  
Reading: Robinson & Zalut, "Sharing Live Experience with Incarceration" **[on Canvas]**; Zalut, "Interpreting Trauma" **[on Canvas]**.
- M5 (spring break)
- M12 **Prison Visit** (leave from Penn campus)
- M 19 Prison visit recap  
**Oral presentation of Assignment 2a** (Death Row group report)
- M 26 Contemporary art at ESP and elsewhere.  
**Assignment 2b due** (Death Row short paper)  
Reading: tbd
- A 2 Governance, strategic planning, finances  
**Assignment 3a due** (Research Proposal)  
Reading: tbd
- A 9 Theater, enactment, and ethics (Halloween)  
Reading: tbd
- A 16 The Future: Visitor Center (Atkin Olshin as guests); "Hidden Lives" project  
Reading: tbd
- A 23 Oral Reports 1 (**Assignment 3b:** Research Paper presentation), on campus, Jaffe B-17
- A 30 Oral Reports 2 (**Assignment 3b:** Research Paper presentation), on campus, Jaffe B-17
- M 8 **Assignment 3c due** (Research Paper)

## **ARTH 570 Readings**

**(under development)**

Books marked with an asterisk (\*) are on reserve in the Fisher Fine Arts Library

Center for the Future of Museums, "Trendswatch," 2017 **[on Canvas]**.

Charles Dickens, *American Notes: For General Circulation*, 2 vols. (London: Chapman and Hall, 1842), vol. 1, chapt. 7, 233-68 **[Canvas]**

Eastern State Penitentiary, Audio Tour: Death Row **[on Canvas]**

Eastern State Penitentiary, "Case for Support: Death Row" **[on Canvas]**

Interpretive Solutions, "Interpretive Plan for Eastern State Penitentiary," 2011 **[on Canvas]**

\* Norman Johnston, et al, *Eastern State Penitentiary: Crucible of Good Intentions* (Philadelphia: Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1994) HV9475 P3 E195 1994

Sean Kelley, "Eastern State Penitentiary: The Ruin Isn't What It Used To Be," in *Evasions of Power* (Philadelphia: Slought Foundation, 2007) [www.slought.org/series/evasions](http://www.slought.org/series/evasions) **[Canvas]**

Sean Kelley, "Beyond Neutrality," Center for the Future of Museums Blog, 23 August 2016, <http://futureofmuseums.blogspot.com/2016/08/beyond-neutrality.html> **[Canvas]**

Sean Kelley, "The Jury is Out," *Museums & Social Issues* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2011), 25–38 **[Canvas]**

Kelly Otterson, "Hands-on History: Death Row," 2011-12 **[Canvas]**

Marvin Robinson and Lauren Zalut, "Sharing Lived Experience with Incarceration to Encourage Visitor Empathy: A Case Study through Conversation," *Journal of Museum Education*, 43:1 (2018) **[Canvas]**

Beverly Serrell, *Exhibit Labels: An Interpretive Approach* (Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 1996), 1-36 **[Canvas]**

\* Lawrence Weschler, *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder: Pronged Ants, Horned Humans, Mice on Toast, and Other Marvels of Jurassic Technology* (New York: Vintage Books, 1996). LIBRA. AM101.L725 W47 1996 **[and Canvas]**

Lauren Zalut, "Hands-on History: Soup Alley," Draft 2.0, Winter 2013 **[Canvas]**

Lauren Zalut, "Interpreting Trauma, Memory, and Lived Experience in Museums and Historic Sites," *Journal of Museum Education*, 43:1 (2018), 4-6 **[Canvas]**