

# MUSEUM STUDIES AND ARCHAEOLOGY

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## Course description and objectives

Museums are considered as a mirror that reflects the nation's history and civilization in front of the generations. Through museums these generations are familiar with the stages of their history. Museums are, at the same time, one of the most important means for historians to outline and discover the history and culture of people and nations.

The idea of establishing museums is relatively modern even if the first "Museum" dates back to Alexander the Great. The concept of museum has developed over the centuries; starting from the birth of the great Renaissance collections, the aims and the features of the collections themselves also changed: from a purely private enjoyment to a public function with educational purposes.

In the second half of the 19th century, thanks to the great discoveries of historical treasures in a number of countries in the world, especially in the Near East, archeology took on a distinctive character as a specialized branch of human knowledge. This new science was able to study the history of people and nations through its relics, depending on special scientific methods, hence the importance of establishing museums as places in which the discovered artifacts are collected and shown together with the information about the provenance (context).

However, during the first half of the last century, the interest about museums is increased and a new theory about the role of museums spread: museums are not only devoted to show objects to charm the visitor's eyes but they are considered also institutions aimed to educate the visitor about all aspects of the civilization to which the exhibited monuments belong. The exhibits in museums have become a tool for the definition of history rather than beautiful works of art.

There is no doubt that museums studies should be a specific topic to be taught in Iraqi universities by means of its own methods and practices.

### Methods

In order to obtain optimal results in increasing the students' knowledge of Museum Studies, it is valuable to introduce to students some samples of Museum. This requires a trip to Iraqi Museum of the General Authority for Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq and to another museums in Iraq.

### Knowledge and skills to be achieved

At the end of the course the student is able to apply the theoretical-scientific concept of Museum Studies in its various meanings and its various multi-functional aspects, linked to enjoyment and use of Cultural Heritage Goods.

He is aware of the long path that comes from the history of the museum institution intended as a container of a collection up to the idea of the modern Archaeological Museum, and its complex organization.

Moreover, through the knowledge of museographic methods and practices, he learns the tools and methodologies for designing an exhibition, in order to translate into reality a “museologic project” (Museum, exhibition or archaeological park).

### Required Readings and materials

The readings in the curriculum are narrated as required but it should be taken into account that the classes will include Power Point presentations which adds essential information not covered by readings; it is therefore important to attend classes of the sessions of the semester in order to increase knowledge.

Students must read the following books before attending class.

1. Ghanima A., *Museums, Exhibitions and Palaces*, Alexandria, 1990.
2. Mohammed R., *Introduction to Museology*, Cairo, 2008.
3. Qadoos A., *The science of fossils and the art of museums*, 2003.
4. Swain H., *An Introduction to Museum Archaeology*, Cambridge, 2007.
5. Parry R., *Recording the Museum: Digital heritage and the technologies of change*, Routledge, 2007.

### Grade

The grade for the Museum Studies and Archaeology will be divided as follow:

The first exam	The origins and evolution of museums.	10%
The second exam	Types of international and Arab museums and comparative study.	10%
The Final exam	For all curriculum	50%
Paper and Presentation		10%
Attendance and class participation		10%
Quizzes		10%

The grade scale will be as follows:

<b>Excellence</b>	90-95
<b>Very good</b>	80-89
<b>Good</b>	70-79
<b>Average</b>	65-69
<b>Acceptable</b>	60-64

## Attendance

There are two classes a week (Wednesday - Tuesday) at a rate of 60 minutes. The course depends on a set of requirements, including attending lectures, exam preparation, daily preparation of the material, scientific discussions and research; in addition it should be taken into account other things which may affect the assessment of the level of student performance, including not making any noise within the classroom through speech and using the mobile phone; therefore the phone must be silent so as not to affect the course of the lesson.

## Calendar

Basic and support material to be covered according to the homework/reports and their due dates:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Week 1	<b>The importance of Museum Studies</b> <i>ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums</i> Mohammed R., <i>Introduction to Museology</i> , Cairo, 2008.
Week 2	<b>Introduction to the museum</b> Aldabagh T., Rasheed F., <i>Museology</i> , Baghdad 1979. Alexander E.P, Alexander M., <i>Museums in Motion: An Introduction to the History and Functions of Museums</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. Lanham, AltaMira Press, 2008.
Week 3	<b>The origin of the museum and its development through the ages</b> <i>ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums</i> Zahdy B., <i>Museums</i> , Damascus, 1988.
Week 4	<b>Museums and their evolution</b> ICOM, <i>Running a Museum: A Pratical Handbook</i> , Paris, 2004. Ghanima Y., <i>Museums, Exhibitions and Palaces</i> , Alexandria, 1990.
Week 5	<b>Museum display methods</b> Qadoos A., <i>The science of fossils and the art of museums</i> , 2003. McKenna-Cress P. Kamien J.A., <i>Creating Exhibitions: Collaboration in the Planning, Development, and Design of Innovative Experiences</i> , Hoboken, Wiley, 2013.
Week 6	<b>Lighting styles in museum exhibition halls</b> ICOM, <i>Running a Museum: A Pratical Handbook</i> , Paris, 2004. Ghanima A., <i>Museums, Exhibitions and Palaces</i> , Alexandria, 1990.
Week 7	<b>Museum Management and related practice</b> Desvallées A., Mairesse F., <i>Key Concepts of Museology</i> , Paris 2010. Ghanima A., <i>Museums, Exhibitions and Palaces</i> , Alexandria, 1990.
Week 8	<b>Museum display: security and safety</b> McKenna-Cress P. Kamien J.A., <i>Creating Exhibitions: Collaboration in the Planning, Development, and Design of Innovative Experiences</i> , Hoboken Wiley, 2013.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Subject</b>
	Aldabagh T., Rasheed F., <i>Museology</i> , Baghdad 1979.
Week 9	<b>Museums in England, in some European countries and in America.</b> Bennett. T, <i>The Birth of the Museum: History, Theory, Politics, London, Routedge,, 1995.</i> Ghanima A., <i>Museums, Exhibitions and Palaces</i> , Alexandria, 1990.
Week 10	<b>A look at the hidden palaces in England</b> McKenna-Cress P. Kamien J.A., <i>Creating Exhibitions: Collaboration in the Planning, Development, and Design of Innovative Experiences</i> , Hoboken, Wiley, 2013 Ghanima A., <i>Museums, Exhibitions and Palaces</i> , Alexandria, 1990.
Week 11	<b>A comparative study between museums and hidden palaces</b> Desvallées A., Mairesse F., <i>Key Concepts of Museology</i> , Paris 2010. Bennett. T, <i>The Birth of the Museum: History, Theory, Politics, London, Routedge, 1995.</i>
Week 12	<b>Museums in Islamic countries (Turkey - Iran)</b> Ghanima A., <i>Museums, Exhibitions and Palaces</i> , Alexandria, 1990. Qadoos A., <i>The science of fossils and the art of museums</i> ,2003.
Week 13	<b>Iraqi and Arabic Museums</b> Aldabagh T., Rasheed F., <i>Museology</i> , Baghdad 1979. Qadoos A., <i>The science of fossils and the art of museums</i> ,2003.
Week 14	<b>A comparative study between Iraqi and Arab museums and European and American museums.</b> Qadoos A., <i>The science of fossils and the art of museums</i> ,2003. Desvallées A., Mairesse F., <i>Key Concepts of Museology</i> , Paris 2010. Bennett. T, <i>The Birth of the Museum: History, Theory, Politics, London, Routedge, 1995.</i>
Week 15	<b>Iraqi relics Protection law and introduction</b>