

HISTORY INTERNSHIP (HIST 4398) – Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Bill Bush Field Supervisor: Diedra Clark Student: Serina Léon

Catalog description:

Supervised professional experience in a museum, archive, public history site, or other community setting. The student may repeat this class for a maximum of 6 semester credit hours.

Course Summary:

This course trains the student in one of a variety of historical professions, under the shared guidance of an on-site supervisor and a history professor. The student, in collaboration with the site supervisor and the professor, will develop and execute a major research project, or a series of smaller research projects, in a particular area of interest. The final product(s) may include written, visual, and/or digital or multimedia materials.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Research and analyze a specific historical topic or topics utilizing primary and secondary source materials.
- 2) Present historical research to the public in an accessible form.
- 3) Develop skills and knowledge with preservation and digital history tools.
- 4) Practice professionalism in the work environment.

Basic Components of the Course:

The selected topic for this internship is the history of mental illness and mental health with a specific focus on the San Antonio State Hospital (SASH), which serves as the internship site. The student will conduct research using the SASH ledgers and U.S. Census records to develop a template for Texas State Hospital Open Records Requests (ORR). Other activities may include assisting with the development of physical or digital exhibits for a planned museum space on the SASH grounds.

Possible Reading Materials:

Bush, William S. *Circuit Riders for Mental Health: The Hogg Foundation in Twentieth Century Texas*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2016.

Grob, Gerald N. *The Mad Among Us: A History of the Care of America's Mentally Ill*. New York: The Free Press, 1994.

Kelly, C. *State School and Hospital Preservation: A Survey of the Field*. Austin, TX: Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, April 2025. Retrieved from <https://hogg.utexas.edu>.

Sitton, Sarah. *Life in the Texas State Lunatic Asylum*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1998.

Thompson, Courtney E., and Kylie M. Smith eds. *Do Less Harm: Ethical Questions for Health Historians*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2025.