

## ***Teaching with the Art Museum a Departmental Mini-Retreat***

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida

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### **OVERVIEW**

This document summarizes an academic department retreat at a campus art museum. This example is offered to inspire colleagues at other university museums and galleries to develop programs for their teaching colleagues, and is a model that may be used and freely modified. We look forward to seeing other examples from which we might learn.

This half-day retreat was designed for the University of Florida Political Science Department at the Harn Museum of Art, December 2016. The retreat was held at the museum, providing an opportunity for faculty to gather in a pleasant space outside of their typical work context, and to focus on a topic related to their interests, but from a new perspective. In addition to the structured presentation of information and experiential opportunities, time was also provided for faculty to engage in casual conversation with each other.

The mini-retreat resulted from on-going work with one faculty member in Political Science who has been especially involved in using the museum for teaching and in consulting on a major exhibition, *Aftermath: The Fallout of War – America & the Middle East*. Serving as an ambassador for the museum, she conceived the retreat with her Departmental Chair, who saw an opportunity to foster teaching and camaraderie amongst his faculty and graduate instructors.

### **NOTE ON PARTNER WORK LOAD**

While museum staff proposed the agenda, prepared for the visit and hosted the program, our partner also had to commit to significant, if reasonable, work. The Department Chair came to the Harn to meet with museum staff, tour the facilities, and discuss the plans. Subsequent work involved substantial correspondence with faculty, back-and-forth with museum staff, and arranging for breakfast hospitality and lunch service. Presumably, there was a good deal of button-holing to ensure attendance. In sum, such a retreat is a partnership requirement commitment of all parties.

### **PROGRAM GOALS**

#### **Political Science Department Goals:**

- Positive shared departmental experience;
- Expose faculty to unique campus resource;
- Stimulate creative approaches to teaching.

#### **Harn Museum of Art Goals:**

- Present range of museum resources available to faculty and instructors to support teaching and research;

- Make and strengthen relationships with faculty and with academic units;
- Encourage instructors to bring classes to the museum;
- Provide reference materials to encourage future engagement with the museum

## SCHEDULING

- The retreat was held between the last class of the term and the beginning of final exams. A half-day event was planned to provide time for thoughtful engagement, without excessively imposing on faculty time. One of the tenets of engagement at the Harn is that we respect faculty time.

## HOSPITALITY

On the theory that food fosters casual, productive interaction and receptive minds, the Chair provided morning coffee and baked goods as well as an end-of-event lunch, to which he invited museum staff.

## AGENDA

- 9:30 - Convene in Auditorium. Coffee and baked goods
  - Welcome – Chair of Dept
  - Agenda – Harn Education Curator
- 10am – 10:45 – Tour of the galleries
  - Brief general tour of museum ending in *Aftermath* exhibition.
  - *Aftermath* tour and conversation on faculty involvement with Professor of Political Science and Curator of Photography.
    - Faculty role in consultation, advisory committee, essay writing, programming, classes.
- 11am - Return to Auditorium.
  - The Harn as a teaching resource for Political Science faculty – Harn Education Curator
    - Available museum resources.
    - How that Harn works with faculty, courses and students.
    - Examples with art works brought from storage.
    - Faculty focus exhibition opportunities.
    - Student opportunities
      - Research resources, internships, stipends, volunteer opportunities.
      - Brief comments from Harn Intern majoring in Political Science.
  - Upcoming exhibitions

Noon – Lunch in classroom.

## LESSONS LEARNED & GENERAL TENETS

1. Build on relationships – Working with our Political Science faculty “ambassador” has been enormously rewarding in itself. She has brought stimulating students and classes to the museum; shared relevant articles and books; consulted on exhibitions and wrote a catalogue essay. Through her, the museum made great strides in supporting the academic activities of the university. As an example and an ambassador to her (sometimes skeptical) faculty colleagues,

she has opened the door for the museum to work with and support the teaching of additional instructors.

2. Plan for the unexpected – Fortuitously we have a Political Science undergraduate major as a current intern. While this student agreed to make a presentation about the relevance of a museum internship to her Political Science studies, she had a last minute medical emergency that prevented her participation. It would have been wise to have her submit her presentation in advance so that a staff member could share the content.
3. Money matters – While the museum may host such a retreat with very few direct costs (e.g. pencils and photocopies), it is wise to encourage departmental partners to budget for hospitality. The casual interactions at the coffee table or over lunch, encourage rapport and allow instructors opportunity to share and muse over potential ideas for teaching with the museum.

## RESULTS

- The week following the event, one class has been scheduled for faculty member bringing his Political Science course to the museum for the first time;
- From discussions at the event, it is extremely likely that one other first-time faculty member and one first-time TA will bring their classes to the museum in the next two semesters;
- Feedback from the retreat:

Dear Eric and Carol -

Thank you for welcoming us at The Harn and for your fantastic presentations today to Political Science faculty. You set just the right tone, bringing everybody into conversation, allowing both those who might be avid museum-goers and those who might have never seen art as in any way related to their work to feel comfortable, to look for connections, to think beyond usual classroom instruction. The selection of artworks you chose to highlight was excellent - there was no doubt that they were all “political” - but, again, they illuminated aspects of politics that were not immediately obvious, thus helping us think very differently about our work and the “discipline” we teach.

As one of my colleagues said this afternoon - it is simply unbelievable that here, in central Florida, we have such a resource and such expertise!

Yours, warmly -

Aida Hozic

Associate Professor of International Relations  
University of Florida  
Department of Political Science

Dear Eric and Carol,

I want to echo Aida's comments. The event met and even exceeded my expectations. You clearly grabbed the attention of the participants, myself included, and you did a great job illustrating new ways in which we can refresh and enrich our teaching practices. Quite a number of faculty members and grad students told me they found the retreat valuable and stimulating. I have little doubt that some of them will seek to incorporate the Harn's

resources into their teaching in coming semesters, or perhaps get involved with the museum in other ways.

Thanks so much for producing and leading such a tremendous event!

Ido Oren

Associate Professor and Chair  
University of Florida  
Department of Political Science



Carol McCusker (Harn Curator of Photography) and Aida Hozic (Professor of Political Science) speaking about faculty involvement and teaching in *Aftermath: The Fallout of War - America & the Middle East*.



Eric Segal (Director of Education), discussing works in storage and database searching. Works from storage can be seen with Beth Hinrichs (Registration Assistant) in the far background.



End-of-retreat lunch held in a museum classroom.

Supplies:

Pencils (so that they may be taken into galleries)

Note sheet (example below)

PowerPoint (next pages)

## Teaching with the Harn!

Harn Museum of Art- December 9, 2016

### AGENDA:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 9:30     | Welcome and coffee  |
| 10-10:45 | Gallery tour and conversation about faculty involvement in <i>Aftermath: the Fallout of War</i> , with Carol McCusker, Curator of Photography.                            |
| 11:00    | Return to the Auditorium to discuss using the museum as a teaching resource and faculty exhibitions; and student opportunities with Sarah Marek, Political Science major. |
| Noon     | Lunch – Lower-level, classroom.   |

### YOUR NOTES:

### Resources for your courses:

- tours tailored to course themes
- art in galleries and from storage
- consultation on museum-based assignments
- Bishop Study Center
- scheduled programs & gallery talks

### Contacts:

Eric Segal, Director of Education,  
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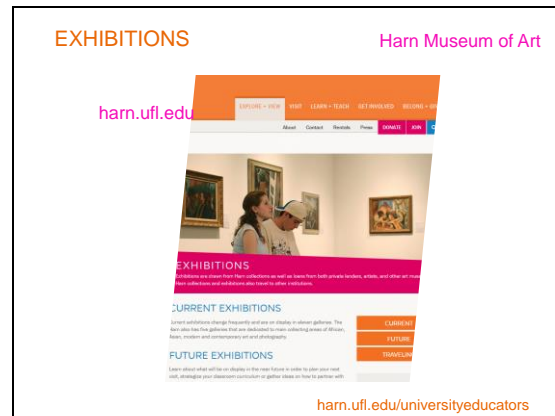
**Membership** - [harn.ufl.edu/join](http://harn.ufl.edu/join)



**throughout the day . . .**  
**how you might use the museum?**

I invite you to note themes, topics or issues in your courses which you might like to find a new way to approach.

- What isn't working about those now?
- What would you like to achieve?
- What ideas are sparked for you today?



**Art of Political Science – mini-retreat at the Harn**

**AGENDA**

- 9:30** Welcome
- 10:00** Gallery tour and conversation about faculty involvement the exhibition, *Aftermath: the Fallout of War*, with Carol McCusker, Curator of Photography.
- 11:00** Return to Auditorium to discuss using the museum as a teaching resource; faculty exhibitions; and student opportunities.
- Noon** Lunch – Lower-level in Classroom 1.

**COLLECTIONS**

**Five collecting areas**

African	
Asian	prints,
Contemporary	Latin American art,
Modern	Pre-Columbian art,
Photography	some ancient ceramics and coins.

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## Departmental Retreat at the Art Museum- 8

[illegible]

## TOURS OF THE MUSEUM

Harn Museum of Art

- Regular tours every Saturday and Sunday.
- Scheduled tours by appointment in advance.
- Tours tailored to stimulate lively discussion about concepts, themes and issues related to your course.
- Resources and training for faculty who want to teach in the museum.



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## UF CLASSES AT THE HARN

The Harn's collections, building, and staff are available to support instruction.



Dr. Peggy Borum, Professor of Human Nutrition in IFAS with upper-division students discussing contemporary Japanese culture.





Dr. Shihko Takai, Professor of Japanese, with upper-division students discussing contemporary Japanese culture.

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## TEACHING FACILITIES

**Flexible spaces:** meet with your students and Harn staff to discuss topics and study art brought from storage.

**Prints Cabinet:** request art for the in-gallery cabinet.



**UF CLASSES AT THE HARN** Harn Museum of Art



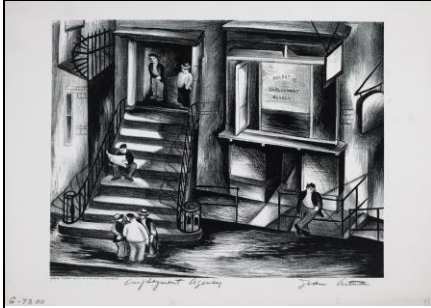
Students in **PHT 6374: *Geriatrics in Physical Therapy* (Dr. Bill McGehee)**, come to the Harn to sharpen their clinical observation and empathetic skills through exercises and discussions that focus on close examination and objective description of art objects.



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## Departmental Retreat at the Art Museum- 9



Jean Artman. *Employment Agency*. c. 1936-1943  
Lithograph, image: 9 7/16 x 12 1/4 in.  
Courtesy of the Fine Arts Program, Public Buildings Service, U.S. General Services Administration, commissioned through the New Deal Art Projects, with gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Corbin S. Carnell, in memory of E. Muriel Adams.  
Object number: L2012.54.11



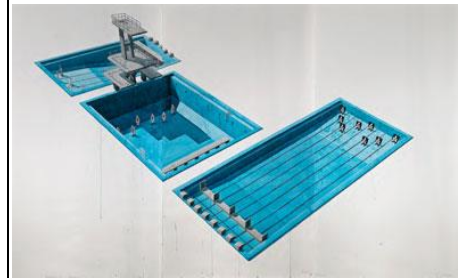
Lidwien van de Ven. *London, 04/09/2004 (International Hijab Solidarity Day)*. 2007  
Inkjet print on photo ring paper mounted on cardboard, 5.5 in. x 7 ft. 10 1/2 in.  
Museum Purchase, funds provided by the David A. Coffin Acquisition Endowment. Object number: 2011.34



William Gropper. *The Dictator or The General*. n.d.  
Etching, 22 1/4 x 18 5/8 in.  
From the collection of Dr. August and L. Tommie Freundlich  
Object number: 2010.44.21



William Gropper. *The Senior Members*. c.1940  
Lithograph, 12 5/8 x 19 1/8 in.  
From the collection of Dr. August and L. Tommie Freundlich  
Object number: 2010.44.22



Los Carpinteros. *Complejo Martí*. 2007  
Watercolor on paper, 8 ft. 2 1/2 in. x 13 ft. 9 3/8 in.  
Museum purchase, funds provided by the David A. Coffin Acquisition Endowment and friends of the Ham Museum. Object number: 2008.22



George Grosz. *The White General*. 1929  
Lithograph, 18 7/8 x 12 7/8 in.  
From the collection of Dr. August and L. Tommie Freundlich  
Object number: 2010.44.25



Stéphane Couturier. *Berlin, Friedrichstrasse*. 1996  
Silver dye-bleach print (châtrone), 40 1/4 x 57 in. Gift of Martin Z. Margulies. Object number: 2005.16.9



### MUSEUM NIGHTS

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month  
open until 9 pm

### INTERNSHIPS

Internships:  
- All majors  
- Fall, Spring & Summer

[www.harn.ufl.edu/intern](http://www.harn.ufl.edu/intern)

## Guidelines

- Feel free to contact me.
- Please contact me even if you are going DIY
  - I will make sure there are no obstacles.
- Use caution around the art.
- Pencils (not pens).
- Double check with us on hours & works on view.

### CAMELLIA COURT CAFE

Open Tue-Sat, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### FREE MEMBERSHIP

[harn.ufl.edu/join](http://harn.ufl.edu/join)

**Benefits:**

- Free/reduced entrance at museums throughout the US & Canada
- Discounts in the Harn's store
- Invitations to member parties

### EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

#### Harn Museum of Art

Faculty developed small-scale exhibitions in support of research and teaching

Funded by the Dr. Madelyn M. Lockhart Endowment for Faculty Focus Exhibitions.

Recent Faculty Focus partners include:

- **Pam Soltis**, Distinguished Professor and Curator, and **Doug Soltis**, Distinguished Professor, Florida Museum of Natural History
- **Susana Braylan**, Senior Lecturer in the Dept of Spanish and Portuguese Studies and her students.
- **Andrea Lucky**, faculty in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.
- **Patricia Hilliard Nunn**, Lecturer, African American Studies
- **Sean Miller**, Associate Professor, School of Art + Art History.
- **Bonnie Effros** and **Sophia Krzys Acord**, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere.
- **Marsha Bryant**, Professor of English, and **Mary Ann Eaverly**, Professor of Classics.
- **Alissa Jordan**, doctoral student in Anthropology.
- **Barbara Mennel**, Director of Film & Media Studies and Associate Professor in the Dept of English
- **Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig**, Archivist and Education Coordinator, Health Science Center Libraries.
- **Joyce Tsai**, Assistant Professor, School of Art + Art History.
- **Maya Stanfield-Mazzi**, Associate Professor, School of Art + Art History

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