



*Series: Discovering Your Educational Community Resources*

**In Our Own Backyard:  
Destinations That Enrich the Curriculum –  
San Francisco Bay Area**

EDUO 9804 1 Semester Credit/Unit

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**Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

This course will provide teachers with the opportunity to visit and explore on their own four outstanding Bay area educational and cultural centers of interest to teachers and students of any grade level. Teachers tour the **Golden Gate Conservatory of Flowers and the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach**, and your choice of two additional sites in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Students will benefit as teachers bring these fieldtrip exploration experiences, cultural activities, community focus and other ideas into their curriculum.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Teachers will learn what educational programs and other opportunities are available for their students at four outstanding educational museums.
2. By participating in tours of the exhibits in the selected four museums, teachers will further their knowledge of art culture, history, science, natural history, agriculture, etc., that can be taken back to the classroom and incorporated into the curriculum.
3. Teachers will gain the knowledge to plan and teach meaningful art lessons and activities for their grade level.
4. Teachers will be able to provide field trip information for parents and staff and plan meaningful fieldtrips that enrich the curriculum of grade level taught.

## Course Requirements:

1. Enroll online by clicking [here](#) where you can download the course syllabus for **San Francisco Bay Area**. You can also get more information by attending area summer course orientation meeting. [Click here](#) for dates, times and locations.
2. You will tour **four** museums/cultural centers. **Two required** visitations include: **the Golden Gate Conservatory of Flowers** and **Fitzgerald Marine Reserve** in Moss Beach. The other two are your choice from the list of Bay Area attractions provided below.
3. You will choose **four** of the seven museums' "exhibits", which is listed on the syllabus. Visit them at your convenience (you have nine-months to complete this course). Be prepared to take notes. At the completion of each tour, have the **Documentation Page** of the packet stamped and dated by the museum receptionist, or if this is not available attach some form of entrance receipt instead.
4. Complete all coursework, including the **Evaluation Form** below.

**\*Note:** It is advisable to call ahead for the days/hours that these venues are open to the public, and for the admission costs as they occasionally change. For some venues, it is also recommended that you **call ahead to request a docent-guided tour**. A camera may be needed to record some sites visited. Evidence as proof of the visit must be attached to the coursework, such as a photograph, a stamp/signature from a docent, a brochure/ticket, etc.

## Instructions for coursework submission:

### Written Assignments

Your coursework should be created in a document that can be emailed directly to the instructor. Coursework should be typed, double-spaced with size 12 font. Reflection write-ups should be one or more pages in length and address every question in the coursework. Pictures and documents may be scanned and posted along with your Word or PDF file of written assignments. Label everything carefully with the assignment number and make sure that your name and email address are easy to locate.

**IMPORTANT** - Camera images can be very large files. Save the images in lower definition resolution in order to keep document file sizes down for emailing.

For assistance email [jherz@dominicancaonline.com](mailto:jherz@dominicancaonline.com)

**EMAIL your completed documents to the instructor's email listed on the syllabus you are working from.**

## SITE INFORMATION

### ***Golden Gate Park Conservatory of Flowers***

The Conservatory of Flowers has become one of San Francisco's most popular destinations and has welcomed more than one million visitors. The elegant, rehabilitated building continues to be recognized as an icon of San Francisco's Victorian past and has garnered countless awards for high achievement in historical preservation. Floral displays and special exhibitions inspire visitors with a renewed appreciation for the wonders of the natural world. The Conservatory of Flowers staff and volunteers are extremely proud of the popular elementary school guided tour program, which fills to capacity every year. The Conservatory features four permanent galleries, each of which is painstakingly cared for by Nursery Specialists. Plants are rotated into the galleries as they bloom so visitors can always expect to see the plants in our collection at their peak.

Golden Gate Park, 100 John F Kennedy Drive, San Francisco (415)  
666-7001

Hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Last entry is at 4:00 p.m).

Monday: Closed

The Conservatory is open on Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Christmas Eve (Until 2 p.m) and New Year's Eve.

Admission: Check seasonal hours and pricing at [www.conservatoryofflowers.org](http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org)

### ***Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Moss Beach***

The Reserve is open during daylight hours but the life in the tide pools can only be seen at low tides, below +1.0 feet. So, before you come to the Reserve, check your newspaper, [an online tide guide](#), or a tide book which is available at marinas, boating or fishing shops. Please know that the tides at Moss Beach occur about one hour earlier than listed for the Golden Gate. Tide pooling is best done just before and just after low tide. Be sure to bring a windbreaker, a sweater and a pair of dry shoes. [Check the map](#) to locate the Reserve.

Any low tide below +1.0 feet will provide an array of tide pools with a variety of plants, and marine invertebrates. The lowest minus tides are not necessary for an exciting experience but remember, time and patience is needed to see any marine life in action. On low tide weekends, roving naturalists are frequently out on the reef to help you learn more about the creatures living on the reef. A Harbor Seal exhibit, staffed by naturalists, may be available at the time of your visit.

200 Nevada Avenue, Moss Beach  
(650) 728-3584 [www.fitzgeraldreserve.org](http://www.fitzgeraldreserve.org)

Open during daylight hours

Admission: Free.

## ***Other Greater Bay Area Sites of Interest to Visit***

### **1. Egyptian Rosicrucian Museum – San Jose**

1660 Park Ave, San Jose  
408-947-3635  
Open M-F 9am-5pm, Sa-Su 11am-6pm  
Admission: Check seasonal hours and pricing at  
[www.egyptianmuseum.org/egyptianmuseum](http://www.egyptianmuseum.org/egyptianmuseum)

More Info: The Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum began with one small artifact, a Sekhmet (lion goddess) statue, which stood on the desk of H. Spencer Lewis, the founder of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC. In the 1920s AMORC supported the excavations of the Egypt Exploration Society in Tell el-Amarna (Akhetaten), the city of the Pharaoh Akhnaton. In gratitude, the Egypt Exploration Society donated several artifacts from their finds to AMORC. Today the Museum, with over 4,000 artifacts, houses the largest collection of authentic ancient Egyptian artifacts on display in Western North America. The Museum hosts more than 100,000 guests per year, including 26,000 school children.

### **2. Cable Car Museum - SF**

1201 Mason Street, San Francisco  
(415) 474-1887  
Hours: 10 am - 6 pm April 1 thru September 30  
Open every day except New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.  
Admission: Free, check seasonal hours at [www.cablecarmuseum.org](http://www.cablecarmuseum.org)

More Info: Located in the historic Washington/Mason cable car barn and powerhouse, the museum deck overlooks the huge engines and winding wheels that pull the cables. Downstairs is a viewing area of the large sheaves and cable line entering the building through the channel under the street. On display are various mechanical devices such as grips, track, cable, brake mechanisms, tools, detailed models, a large collection of historic photographs, and three antique cable cars from the 1870s.

### **3. Exploratorium – San Francisco**

Pier 15, The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 528-4444  
Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Admission: Check seasonal hours and pricing at [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)

More Info: The Exploratorium is an experimental, hands-on museum designed to spark curiosity—regardless of your age or familiarity with science. Touch, pick up, and tinker with hundreds of exhibits. Your curiosity will guide you to endless discoveries!

#### **4. Zeum Children's Museum - SF**

221 4th Street, San Francisco

(415) 820-3320

Wed - Fri 1pm-5pm, Sat - Sun 11am-5pm

Zeum Carousel Hours Everyday, 11am - 6pm

Admission: Check seasonal hours and pricing at [www.zeum.org](http://www.zeum.org)

More info: Located Zeum: San Francisco's Children's Museum is a hands-on, multimedia arts and technology experience for kids. We envision a world where the 3Cs of 21st-century literacy - Creativity, Collaboration and Communication - inspire new ideas and innovative solutions. We believe that the success of the next generation will hinge not only on what they know, but also on their ability to think and act creatively as global citizens. Our mission is to nurture these 3Cs in all youth and families.

#### **5. Contemporary Jewish Museum – San Francisco**

736 Mission Street, San Francisco

(415) 655-7800

Hours: M, T, F, Sa, Su 11am-5pm, Th 1pm-8pm, Wed. Closed

Admission: Check seasonal hours and pricing at [www.thecjm.org/](http://www.thecjm.org/)

More info: Since its founding in 1984, the Contemporary Jewish Museum has engaged audiences of all ages and backgrounds through dynamic exhibitions and programs that explore contemporary perspectives on Jewish culture, history, art, and ideas. Throughout its history, the Museum has distinguished itself as a welcoming place where visitors can connect with one another through dialogue and shared experiences with the arts.

#### **6. San Mateo County History Museum in old courthouse**

2200 Broadway, Redwood City

(650) 299-0104

Hours Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Admission: Check seasonal hours and pricing at [www.historysmc.org/home.html](http://www.historysmc.org/home.html)

More info: A variety of exhibits tell the story of San Mateo County at the History Museum located inside the 1910 county courthouse.

#### **7. Asian Art Museum – SF**

200 Larkin Street

San Francisco

(415) 581-3500

Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun. 10am-5pm; Thurs. 10am-9pm

Admission: Check seasonal hours and pricing at [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org)

More info: The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco is one of the largest museums in the Western world devoted exclusively to Asian Art, with a collection of over 17,000 artworks

spanning 6,000 years of history. The museum is a public institution whose mission is to lead a diverse global audience in discovering the unique material, aesthetic, and intellectual achievements of Asian art and culture.

### 8. Musee Mecanique – San Francisco

Pier 45 Shed A at the end of Taylor Street, Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco Tel: (415) 346-2000

Hours: Mon-Fri 10:00am-7:00pm, Sat-Sun 10:00am-8:00pm, Holidays 10:00am-8:00pm

Admission: Free, but bring plenty of quarters to play the old machines. Check seasonal hours at [www.museemechanique.org](http://www.museemechanique.org)

More info: one of the world's largest privately owned collections of mechanically operated musical instruments and antique arcade machines. It takes you on a journey from turn of the century hand cranked music boxes to modern video arcade games.

### Written Response Grading Rubric

<b>Exemplary: Exceeds Expectations = A</b>	<b>Acceptable: Meets Expectations = B</b>	<b>Unacceptable: Needs Improvement, Must be Resubmitted.</b>
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated.	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment.	Few relevant ideas connected to the assignment, some ideas unclear.
Very well organized	Is generally well organized	Shows little organization
Reflective piece covers numerous facts and specific details of the learning experience.	Some facts and specific details of the learning experience are included.	Few or no facts or specific details of the learning experience are included.
Free of spelling or grammatical errors.	Writing contains a few spelling or grammatical errors.	Numerous spelling or grammatical errors. Writing difficult to read.

### Coursework Written Reflection

Head each reflection paper with the name of the site visited. Please include the name of your school and district where you teach, and the grade level you are now teaching. Reflection papers should be typed in size 12 font. Each paper should be one to two pages long and include responses to the following questions:

## Additional Venue of your Choice

1. What interesting facts and ideas were presented at this community site?
2. How can you make the exhibits or information applicable to your classroom curriculum?
3. Describe at least one enrichment activity or lesson that would result from a classroom visit to this site.



## IN OUR OWN BACKYARD: DESTINATIONS THAT ENRICH THE CURRICULUM

### Documentation Page

This page must be STAMPED and DATED at your selected venue. If none of these are available, include another form of visit variation such as an entrance receipt, etc.

1. Golden Gate Conservatory of Flowers:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach: (if no ranger or docent is available, please attach a photograph)

3. Site of your choice from the suggested list:

4. Site of your choice from the suggested list:



## IN OUR OWN BACKYARD: DESTINATIONS THAT ENRICH THE CURRICULUM

### SUMMARY & EVALUATION

Name:

Date:

Address:

Phone & Email:

Grade Level:

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Summarize and evaluate your experiences in completing this course.

#### **Not Required**

What suggestions do you have for improving this independent study class?

Would you recommend this class to other teachers?

Thank you.