



Series: Discovering Your Educational Community Resources

Amazing Space and Science; Astronomy & More New York

EDUO 9807 1 Semester Credit/Unit

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Syllabus

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide teachers with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the educational resources at the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium, whose mission is public outreach. "The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum — a unique combination of mansion, marine and natural history museum, planetarium and park — is dedicated to the education and enjoyment of the people of Long Island and beyond. This mission shall be achieved through the thoughtful preservation, interpretation and enhancement of the Eagle's Nest estate as an informal educational facility. Exhibition and program themes focus upon Long Island's Gold Coast Era and upon William K. Vanderbilt II's desire that his marine, natural history, and ethnographic collections promote appreciation and understanding of the marvelous diversity of life, other cultures, and scientific knowledge." The museum's goal is to provide a better science education for children of Long Island. The planetarium has been newly renovated with a highly advanced suite of projection, full-dome video and surround-sound systems which will transform the facility into one of the finest and best-equipped planetariums in the United States. The planetarium and its exhibit are available to school and civic groups Monday through Friday. Shows are available to the public run Saturdays and Sundays. In addition, star-gazing through telescopes at the Robert Moses State Park (RMSP), field #2, is one of the areas where the Amateur Observers' Society of New York, Inc. have for their monthly for stargazing. (weather permitting) or you need to attend the Custer Institute in Southold, an area open to public viewing and the darkest "official" site of all. will be required.

Course Objectives

Teachers will:

1. Visit a planetarium museum, a science or space museum (or a museum that has a science or space section) **and** an observatory.
2. Research information about each site before visiting.
3. Conduct further research after each site visit.
4. Acquire information through research about astronomy.
5. Acquire information from the visits and the research to determine if:
 - a. the sites are worthy of a student field trip
 - b. classroom lessons can be developed from the experience.
6. evaluate the experience as to its relevance for an educator.

Grading Rubric: Written Response Rubric

Exemplary: Met and Exceeds Expectations A+ to A-	Acceptable: Meets Expectations B+ to B-	Unacceptable: Needs Improvement. Must be resubmitted.
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 is difficult to read.

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.

Visit four sites and submit responses for EACH location.

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@dominicanaonline.com

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

Assignments

You will attend one planetarium program from the selection of programs now being shown. Shows typically run 20-30 minutes. Please check the website or phone for up-to-date information on show titles: <http://www.vanderbiltmuseum.org/home.php?section=hours> Schedules are subject to change. For the most current information on available show dates and titles, please call (631) 854-5579. No reservations are required. The Vanderbilt Museum is located at 180 Little Neck Road Centerport, New York 11721. Daytime Admission Fees are required for all Daytime Guests (\$7 – Adult, \$6 - Senior/Student (Student ID or Age 62+) and \$3 – for children under 12) Admission fees include:

- Estate Grounds Access
- Marine Museum Galleries
- Mansion Memorial Wing Galleries
- Nursery Wing: °Mansion Video Tour - upon request
- And Egyptian Mummy
- Stoll Wing Dioramas

Written Assignment - Reflection

After visiting the Planetarium at the Vanderbilt Museum and viewing a show, please reflect on your experiences.

1. Describe what you observed and found to be interesting during your visit.
2. Explain how you can make this show relevant to your students.
3. Comment on what is available for students in the gift shop and lobby that you think would enhance student learning.

Written Assignment – Research Report and Lesson Plan

1. After searching the web for “astronomy”, pick 2 sites that interest you. Describe in detail how you would go about using these sites or information found on them to spark an interest in astronomy in your students. Include the URLs of the sites.

OR, visit another planetarium in any city and write a reaction to your visit.

2. Submit a lesson plan for an activity on astronomy education for students at your grade level. Lesson plans/activities should not be copied from other sources such as the internet; however, websites of interest to your class should be mentioned and cited.

The lesson plan should include:

- Content, Skills and/or Standards addressed
- Materials needed
- Intro: Instruction
- Through: Guided Practice/Activities (Worksheets can be included)
- Beyond: Closure activity /Assessment

You will attend one Star - Gazing (Star Party) event held through the the Amateur Observers' Society of New York, Inc. (ASONY) at the Robert Moses State Park (RMSP), field #2. The website for this society is <http://www.aosny.org/> . It is recommended you check online before your visit to confirm their openings. Weather permitting, telescopes and equipment allow you to look at celestial objects. A docent will assist you to find double star systems, planets, nebulae, and star clusters.

OR.....

You will visit the Custer Institute and Observatory located at 1115 Main Bayview Road Southold, New York 11971. This observatory is open to the public every Saturday evening from dark until midnight, the staff of volunteers will give you a tour of the facilities and the night sky through our powerful telescopes.. It is recommended you check online at <http://www.custerobservatory.org> before your visit to confirm their openings. Directions are included in this packet.

1. Written Assignment - Reflection

- Describe the Star Gazing event you attended.
- What celestial objects you were able to view through the telescope?
- What interesting facts did the docents teach you about the night skies.
- Explain how this activity can be of value to your students.

Written Assignment – Summary and Evaluation

Summarize and evaluate your experiences in completing this course. What suggestions do you have for improving this independent study class? Would you recommend this class to other teachers? Thank you.

15. Summarize and evaluate your experience visiting and researching this site as to its value for an educator.

Optional

Do you have suggestions that would improve the experience?

Would you recommend this class to other teachers? Why/why not

Directions to the Vanderbilt Museum:

Vanderbilt Museum
180 Little Neck Road
Centerport, New York 11721-0605

From the LIE Exit 51, The Northern State Parkway Exit 42N, and The Southern State Parkway Exit 39N: Drive North on Deer Park Avenue, bear left at the fork (at traffic light), onto Park Avenue. At 4th light, make a right turn onto Broadway, continue for 4-5 miles until you reach Route 25A. Cross 25A (to left of Centerport Automotive), and you are on Little Neck Road. The Vanderbilt Museum is 1.5 miles on the right.

From the South Shore: Take the Sagtikos Parkway North to the Sunken Meadow Parkway north. Take the last exit, 25A West. Travel about 8 miles and make a right at the Centerport Automotive in Centerport, onto Little Neck Road. We are 1.5 miles on the right.

From Route 110 or 25A West: Travel north on 110 to Huntington Village. Make a right turn onto 25A/Main Street. Travel about 4 miles to Centerport, at the flashing yellow light, bear left onto Park Circle, then turn left onto Little Neck Road. We are 1.5 miles on the right.

Directions to Custer Observatory:

Custer Institute and Observatory
1115 Main Bayview Road
Southold, New York 11971

From all points west of Riverhead Long Island, take the Long Island Expressway (I 495) east to Exit 73 (the last exit). Custer is another 19 miles east. Take RT 58 east for about 4 miles to the Traffic Circle. Continue straight out the other side. Road becomes RT 25 East. Continue for another 15 miles. Take your time, the local Police are very aggressive about speeding tickets. As you enter the Village of Southold, you will see signs for the Custer Institute and the Indian Museum on your right, just before an Empire Gas Station on your right as you are making a gradual left turn. Make a Very Sharp Right turn immediately after the EMPIRE Gas Station (roads form Y) onto Main Bayview Road. You will see our brick buildings with the silver dome on top, about 0.22 miles ahead on the left side of the road. The Indian Museum is directly across the street on your right. Parking is on the street. Please do not block the driveway on the left side of Custer. If you get lost, call (631) 765-2626.