

SCHOOL	Art communication and education
ACADEMIC YEAR	TWO-YEAR PROGRAM II - 2025/2026
SUBJECT	1488 Museologia del contemporaneo
TYPE OF SUBJECT	Theoretical-Practical
NUMBER OF HOURS PER LESSON	4
NUMBER OF ECTS CREDITS	10
DISTRIBUTION OVER THE ACADEMIC YEAR	ANNUAL

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the functions of the contemporary museum within the current cultural and social context, with a particular focus on the themes of conservation, exhibition, enhancement, accessibility, communication, production, and promotion of artistic heritage. Through an in-depth examination of the internal dynamics of the museum institution, its organizational structure, departments, professional roles, and exhibition activities will be addressed. The origins of museums are rooted in collecting; however, many museum institutions are critically analyzing the significance of this elitist practice within their institutional identity, employing appropriate processes of democratization, decolonization, and the systematization of collective heritage. The course also aims to analyze the transformation that the complex nature of the contemporary museum is undergoing as a natural and necessary process of adaptation to the reflections posed by the present, both in terms of updating and in the research and development of coherent exhibition criteria. Students will be encouraged to develop a personal project throughout the year, which they will present in class at the conclusion of the course. The training program will be enhanced by discussions on pressing issues, a comprehensive reference bibliography, expert meetings, educational visits, and practical lessons.

Knowledge and understanding	Demonstration of acquired knowledge regarding various institutional typologies, a comprehensive understanding of their internal activities, and a critical perspective on the practices of collection, exhibition, production, installation, and sharing.
Applying knowledge and understanding	The development of competencies through the ability to reflect the cross-disciplinary roles and skills that drive today's institutions, achieved through oral presentations and practical exercises aimed at the creation of a project.
Making judgements	The development of a critical perspective regarding the choices, dynamics, ethics, and methods of collection, exhibition, production, and communication that differentiate institutions and their capacity to generate cultural insight, innovation, and inclusivity.
Communication skills	Demonstrated ability to articulate acquired competencies effectively, both orally and in writing, and to maintain a constructive and independent critical approach to the issues addressed.
Learning skills	The development of the learning skills necessary to become autonomous in the in-depth study and research of the dynamics related to contemporary museology.

CONTENTS	<p>A series of introductory lectures will be dedicated to the definitions and central themes concerning the museum, museology, museography, and the history of the museum institution and its transformations over time. The evolution of the museum will be examined from the inception of major museums and universal exhibitions in the late nineteenth century, progressing to address contemporary challenges such as the digital humanities in relation to cultural institutions. Following an examination of these aspects, the course will address the history of exhibitions and curatorial practices within the system, with particular attention to contemporary contexts such as art fairs, foundations, galleries, museumized artist studios, archives, public spaces, and major international exhibitions. The course will also analyze the role of key figures within the system who have significantly influenced interactions with the museum through innovative exhibitions and/or critical practices, ranging from institutionalism to contemporary avant-garde movements. A specific focus will be given to curatorial practices applied to museum collections, with particular attention to the exhibitions of the last two decades and addressing Italian and international case studies (the Gam in Turin, the Tate in London) that testify to the impact of new forms of exhibition and curatorship. The themes of decolonization and democratization will be explored through the presentation of several Italian and international case studies, along with theoretical readings on the subject. Lectures will be supplemented by presentations from key industry professionals, who will provide practical and concrete insights to the class, as well as educational visits to museums and public and private institutions. Students will also be actively engaged through collaborative projects aimed at presenting a topic of their choice related to contemporary exhibitions, and the submission of an essay of their selection.</p>
ADOPTED METHODOLOGY	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person Lectures will be delivered with slides in PDF/PPT format. This is a participatory lesson that actively engages students through critical debates and presentations. Industry professionals are invited as guests. Educational field trips are also planned.</p>
ASSESSMENT METHODS	<p>Oral examination. Evaluation criteria: up to 8 points for each completed project, knowledge of the lecture content, and familiarity with the exam bibliography; 3 points for critical analysis of the topics and the ability to draw connections between the proposed themes.</p>