**Programme:** M. A. (History)

Course Code: HIS-625

Title of the Course: An Introduction to Museology

**Number of Credits:** 4

Effective from AY: 2023-24

<b>Prerequisites for the</b>	An avid interest in heritage and museum studies and a	Number
course:		of
	willingness to engage with and undertake study visits to	hours
	museums.	
Objectives:	An Introduction to Museology aims at:	
<u> </u>		
	<ul> <li>providing the students with a basic</li> </ul>	
	understanding of the discipline of museology;	
	<ul> <li>studying museums within an interdisciplinary</li> </ul>	
	perspective;	
	<ul> <li>introducing the students to the history, typology</li> </ul>	
	and functions of museums as well as the basics	
	of managing a museum;	
	<ul> <li>discussing the basic concepts and methods of collection, documentation and exhibition of</li> </ul>	
	museum objects;	
	<ul> <li>acquainting the learners with the roles and</li> </ul>	
	responsibilities of the curator;	
	<ul> <li>examining the role of museums in society, as</li> </ul>	
	agents of change;	
	<ul> <li>familiarising the students with museum skills</li> </ul>	
	and career opportunities in this field.	
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<b>Content:</b>	<b>I. Museum and Museology: Definition and Scope</b> What is a Museum?	15
	Historical Developments in India, and Globally.	
	Changing Concepts and Roles of Museums.	
	Types and Classification of Museums.	
	Functions and Importance of Museums.	
	What is Museology? Key concepts.	
	Recent Trends in Museum Studies. New Museology.	
	Museography.	
	Postmodern Restructurings.	
	Reimagining Museums for the Future.	
	II. Collections Management, Documentation and	15
	Exhibition	

	Collections Policies and Procedures.	
	Acquisition. Registration and Documentation.	
	Storage and Handling.	
	Care and Conservation.	
	De-accessioning and disposal of Museum Objects.	
	Museum Curation. Roles and Responsibilities of Curator in	
	Collections Management.	
	Museum Exhibition: Theory and Practice. Techniques of	
	Display.	
	Museum Collections and Visitor Engagement.	
	The Role of Museums in Cultural Resource Management.	
	III. The Role of Museums in Society: Education and	15
	Social Action	
	The Significance of Education in Museums.	
	Educational Theory in Museums. The Constructivist	
	Museum.	
	Museums and Research. Interpreting Objects and	
	Collections.	
	Museums and Community: Ideas, Issues and Challenges.	
	A Role for Museums in Civic Dialogue.	
	Museums as Agents of Change.	
	Museums, Cultural Diversity and Multiculturalism.	
	Museum Careers. Museology and Entrepreneurship.	
	IV: Museum Management	15
	Museums as Organisations. Museum Management Structure	
	and Administration.	
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	Museum Marketing and Public Relations.	
	Museum Architecture.	
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- Abingdon, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2019.
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- 8. Edson, Gary. *Museum Ethics Theory and Practice*. London: Routledge, 1997.
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- 15. Janes, Robert R. Museums in a Troubled World Renewal, Irrelevance or Collapse? Abingdon,
  - Oxon: Routledge, 2009.
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- 17. Macdonald, Sharon, ed. *A Companion to Museum Studies*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.
- 18. Message, Kylie. *Museums and Social Activism Engaged Protest*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2014.
- 19. Moore, Kevin, ed. *Museum Management*. London and New York: Routledge, 1994.
- 20. Pearce, Susan M., ed. *New Research in Museum Studies: An International Series. Objects of Knowledge.* London and Atlantic Highlands: The Athlone Press, 1990.
- 21. Pearce, Susan M., ed. Interpreting Objects and

Collections. London and New York: Routledge, 1994. 22. Schlatter, N. Elizabeth. Museum Careers: A Practical Guide for Novices and Students. Walnut creek, CA: Left Coast Press, 2008. 23. Thompson, John M. A. Manual of Curatorship: A Guide to Museum Practice. Oxford, Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann, 1992. 24. Vergo, Peter, ed. *The New Museology*. London: Reaktion Books, 1989. 25. Witcomb, Andrea. Re-imagining the Museum Beyond the Mausoleum. London: Routledge, 2003. **Learning Outcomes** Upon the successful completion of this course, the student would have: 1. acquired knowledge of the various meanings and uses of the main museum concepts; 2. studied the historical development of museums, nationally and globally; 3. developed a critical understanding of current museum practices; 4. understood the roles and responsibilities of the curator and basic concepts and methods of collection and documentation of museum objects; 5. examined museums in an interdisciplinary perspective; and 6. attained the ability to apply academic knowledge to a critical analysis of museums and their collections.