

Tweed Museum of Art Faculty Guide ---

Tweed Museum of Art is a multimodal, generative resource for University of Minnesota Duluth faculty across disciplines, departments, and colleges. The museum is committed to supporting teaching, learning, and pedagogical innovation through its exhibition program, Study Room, Reading Lounge, museum staff expertise, and its collection of approximately 11,000 works of art and design that can serve as a wellspring for ideas, research, and new scholarship.

Research informs how the Tweed acquires works of art, cares for the collection and develops exhibitions. Research helps generate new knowledge and expertise, improves access, and provides opportunities for sustained collaboration with artists, students, and faculty at UMD. Faculty and students are key partners and collaborators in these enterprises.

The Tweed is housed within UMD's College of Art, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHSS). CAHSS supports and develops the capacity of students, faculty, and staff to interpret the past, understand the present, and shape the future. To this end, CAHSS fosters an open intellectual environment where faculty, students, and staff pursue inquiry through wide-ranging research, scholarship, and creative activity. As a result, CAHSS graduates, faculty, and staff are lifelong learners, educated professionals, and engaged members of their communities who respond with integrity and intelligence to an ever-changing world.

Whether you're unsure how the museum could be relevant to your course, or you have partnered with the Tweed in the past, we hope this guide will be a helpful resource for your future engagement with the museum.

Why include the museum in your teaching practice and course development?

The museum can be a space for inspiration, study, critique, or object-based teaching and learning.

Faculty across disciplines—ranging from studio art and graphic design to medicine, philosophy, history, linguistics, engineering, political science, or chemistry, among others—can utilize the museum’s collection and pedagogical support resources to fulfill a range of learning goals.

Consider the museum as an opportunity to venture beyond the lab, studio, lecture hall, or classroom wherein a change of location may offer new perspectives and insights.

Develop museum-based assignments that improve your students’ skills in problem-solving, public speaking, or research.

Design activities around works of art to practice a new language, teach writing, expand visual literacy, improve critical thinking, foster empathy, encourage collaboration, or build resiliency.

Create assignments that result in new work inspired by or responsive to the works on view.

Invite opportunities for students to discover a diverse range of artists working with ideas, techniques, or materials that interest them.

Opportunities

Assign students to visit independently as a starting point for thinking, research, or making. Students may also schedule office hours with museum staff to support their research process.

Visit the museum with your students. Facilitate conversations around work/s of art in the galleries. Through inquiry-based conversation, students learn through visual thinking strategies and contextual analysis—two approaches to research which yield new insights.

Schedule a Looking Together experience with museum staff.

Assign students prompts for writing, sketching, performance, or paired/small group discussion.

Co-develop a course. Develop a course that is responsive to an exhibition that will be on view all semester.

Select works from the permanent collection to be installed in the Study Room as “art on reserve.” The Study Room provides access to selected artworks for the entire semester. Faculty members who request works for the Study Room are encouraged to teach from this space throughout the semester. This room is also open to all museum visitors (when not in use by classes) and provides insight into the student experience.

The Tweed recognizes that the opportunities listed above are but a few ways that faculty can utilize the resources available at the museum. We welcome your ideas to expand these offerings and improve access to the collection.

Study Room

The Study Room is a hybrid gallery-classroom for the close study and analysis of works from the Tweed's permanent collection. Each semester UMD faculty and students from across academic disciplines animate this space through research and discovery, the exchange of ideas, collaborative learning practices, and the generation of exhibitions, installations, programs, and responsive assignments.

The Study Room supports the museum's ongoing commitment to academic engagement, object-based teaching, pedagogical innovation, and the creation of communal spaces for students to participate in sustained and meaningful experiences with art and one another.

We invite all museum visitors to join the conversation and engage with the diverse array of objects and interdisciplinary ideas presented in this active, experimental space.

Where to begin?

We encourage you to start by considering your learning goals and objectives. What do you want students to take away from this experience?

Museum staff members are available to support your ideas and requests. Contact Julie Delliquanti, Director, at juliedel@d.umn.edu to start a conversation and learn more.

Depending on your needs, museum staff will

- schedule class visits
- provide access to the collections database and a shared folder that provides information about works currently on view and upcoming exhibitions and permanent collection rotations
- arrange a visit to collection storage
- provide your class with a welcome, orientation to the museum, and/or an overview of an exhibition or installation
- facilitate the handling of collection works temporarily stored in the Study Room flat files

Questions?

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