

FLC offers
a new major in
**Public
History**
Dr. Andrew Gulliford



Fort Lewis started 2013 with a brand new master's Degree in Education Leadership. Not to be outdone, the History Department is also offering a new major in Public History. We asked Dr. Andrew Gulliford, professor of History and Environmental Studies, to tell us a little more about this exciting new option.

Who is eligible to apply for the degree?

The degree is a B.A. in history with an option or emphasis on public history. This new degree concentration will connect with AA degrees in Colorado that focus on historic preservation. Students can then attend CU Denver for a Master's degree in public history/historic preservation or go on for their doctoral work. Any student admitted to Fort Lewis College is welcome to apply.

Why is this degree particularly relevant to Colorado?

A public history degree is particularly relevant for Colorado and Four Corners area students because of our wealth of historic sites, national and state parks, and tribal museums and tribal parks.

Students will learn history but also how to apply it outside of the classroom. Heritage tourism generates hundreds of millions of dollars of tourist revenue in the state and when visitors come to Colorado they want to learn about our mining, ranching, and homesteading heritage.

Do you already have students enrolled?

We have a few students who have started in the program and what is key to the experience are professional internships. FLC students have now interned at a large Boy Scout camp and historic site in South Dakota; at Black Canyon National Park near Montrose, at the Animas Museum in Durango and at the Byers-Evans House in Denver. This summer students may apply to become VIPs or Volunteers in the Park at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area where the National Park Service has loaned us a 54-foot houseboat complete with two captains, a speedboat, and a barge which we will fill with trash as we scour the shores of Lake Powell and learn valuable lessons in environmental and public history.

Who will be the main instructing faculty?

Teaching public history courses including courses in archives, heritage preservation, museum studies, etc. will be done by Dr. Andrew Gulliford and Dr. Michael Martin with assistance from professional staff at the Center of Southwest Studies for valuable hands-on internships.



Durango in 1881
Courtesy Center for SW Studies at Fort Lewis College