VAH2292F
Introduction to Gallery, Museum and Curatorial Studies

image: Blueprint of Museum of History and Technology, McKim, Mead, and White, architects, elevations of 12th Street and Constitution Avenue sides.

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Course Description and Objectives:

This class surveys the history and development of collecting practices in museums and art galleries. Students will learn about museums large and small, in North America and globally, with a focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The emphasis is on collections management: how are objects chosen for museum collections? How they are maintained in storage? And how are they organized into exhibitions? The course is organized thematically, and students will be introduced to different kinds of museums, collections, and archives through case studies, debates, and problem solving. The class
moves from critiquing and thinking about already existing museums, collections, and exhibitions to putting into practice what students have learned through small interventions and curatorial work.

***all written assignments will be handed in prior to the start of class. Short assignments will be submitted through Dropbox on Owl. NO EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Required Texts:

All course readings are available on Owl. It is the student’s responsibility to let the professor or the TA know in advance if s/he has any trouble downloading the readings.

Assignment Breakdown:

Short Assignments: 2 x 15% (30% total) due October 12 and November 30
Participation in Group Exhibition: 15% due October 19
Participation in Group Debate: 15% self-evaluation due November 16
Participation (including attendance): 10%
Final Exam: 30%