

VAH2292G

Introduction to Gallery, Museum and Curatorial Studies

Mondays 9:30-12:30, UCC65

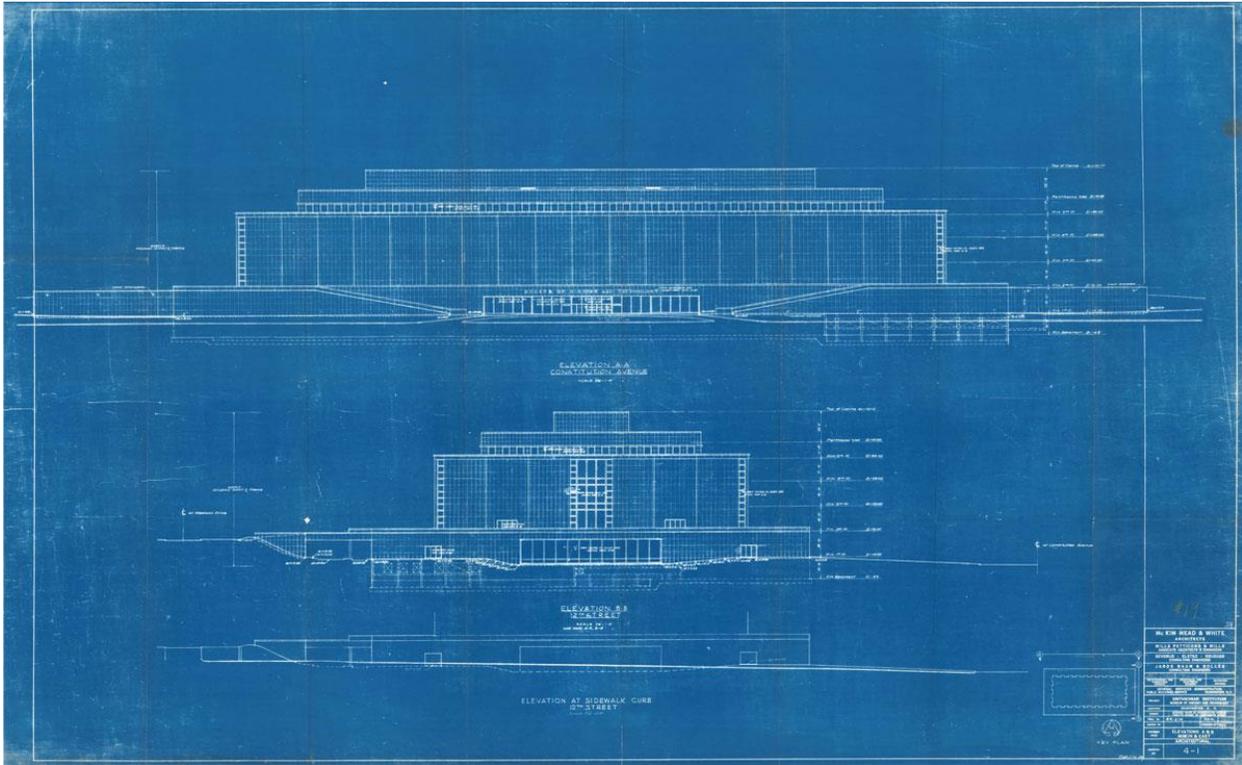


image: Blueprint of Museum of History and Technology, McKim, Mead, and White, architects, elevations of 12th Street and Constitution Avenue sides.

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Course Description and Objectives:

This class surveys the history and development of collecting, storage, and display 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? Such questions will be asked as a part of class units querying whether museums even need objects anymore, and introducing students to concepts of tangible and intangible heritage. Students will learn about how museums interact with their audiences, with an emphasis on labelling, wayfinding, accessibility, and exhibition design. We

will also cover fundraising and grant writing. Dealing with disasters (including natural disasters and theft) will lead to discussions of how to protect collections in a changing world. 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, short assignments, and curatorial work.

*****all assignments must be handed in prior to the start of the class in which they are due. Please follow instructions on each assignment on how to hand it in. In general, visual material should be handed in in hard copy and written material should be handed in to Dropbox. NO ASSIGNMENTS HANDED IN OVER EMAIL 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 they have any trouble downloading the readings.

Assignment Breakdown:

Group Exhibition: 10% due January 28 9:30am

Short Assignment: 15% due February 25

Field Trip Assignment: 10% due March 4

Participation in Group Debate: 10% + self-evaluation, March 11

Wayfinding Assignment: 20%, due April 1

Participation (including attendance): 10%

Final Exam: 25% date tba