

Course Syllabus
Fall, 2009/ spring, 2010

Instructor: Marta Reid Stewart
Course: Curatorial Skills
Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Description

The Curatorial Skills course is a requirement for graduation. The focus of the course is an overview of the practices of curators in museums and an examination of the theories and trends that govern the exhibitions curators mount.

Content Standards:

Developing an idea for an exhibition
Writing a proposal/budget for an exhibition
Selection of objects
Writing a script and labels
Curatorial Order
Conservation of objects

Course Outline

In general the senior high Curatorial Skills course is a comprehensive look at how curators develop exhibitions from the inception of an idea to the actual mounting of the exhibition, the role of the curator. Students in this course will curate exhibitions.

I Developing an exhibition

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of what topics/ideas would make a feasible exhibition. Is an exhibition the best medium for the idea? What are the take home messages for the audiences?
- B. Use research and interviewing skills to collect information about a topic

II Writing a proposal to do an exhibition

- A. Discuss the art of writing successful proposals, submit proposal
- B. Analyze the use of persuasive language

III Selection of objects

- A. Explore various methods of locating objects from private owners and institutions
- B. Choosing dynamic objects and secondary objects for the exhibition and developing an object list and a script; curatorial order

IV Developing a script and labels

- A. Explore the use of language, length of sentences and structure for selected kinds of labels, signage
- B. Selection of type and size

V Conservation of objects

- A. Required to demonstrate knowledge of loan agreements
- B. Make and review condition reports for objects

Materials: Selected articles from American Association of Museums Publications and other periodicals, Museum Basics by Timothy Ambrose and Crispin Paine

Course Requirements

1. Attendance is required. Any absence must be supported by a note from student's parent or guardian. Five unexcused absences may result in failure.
2. Arriving on time for class is mandatory.
3. Students must take all tests and quizzes. Keep a notebook.
- 4 Students must participate in the production of all exhibitions and field trips.

GRADING

Attendance/Decorum	10 %
Classwork/Participation	20 %
Homework	10%
Quizzes/Tests	30%
Exhibitions	30 %