

Fall 2011

Conservation Courses for Art Historians and Archaeologists

The following courses fulfill the Foundations II conservation requirement for art history students.

DATING & PROVENANCE STUDIES IN ART & ARCHAEOLOGY

(Colloquium/Seminar) FINH-GA.2305.001

Norbert S. Baer

Joan B. Connelly

Monday 4:50-7:25pm at the Washington Square Campus

In recent years, the range of technical approaches applied to archaeological and art historical questions has broadened greatly. Although such technologies have added much to our knowledge of the materials of art and archaeology, the results have not always been unambiguous. The current state of technical examination for archaeological artifacts and sites is evaluated by a critical examination of the literature. Among the techniques to be considered in the context of case studies are radiography; radiocarbon dating (traditional and direct counting); thermoluminescence; dendrochronology; stable isotope analysis; dedolomitization; desert varnish and other studies of patina; pyrolysis gas chromatography; and elemental analysis. A focus of the course is examination of issues of chronology and conservation at individual archaeological sites. An oral report accompanied by a bibliography, outline, and an extended abstract are required.

Enrollment is open to students in conservation. This course may also be taken in fulfillment of the Foundations II requirement for art history and archaeology students, who must also enroll in FINH-GA.2302.002 for one additional point. Students must have the permission of the instructors before registering for this course.

ALTERATION & DETERIORATION OF WORKS OF ART: PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2310.001

Nora Kennedy

Tuesday 9:30am–Noon

This course provides an introduction to the history, fabrication and technical developments of the major photographic processes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The causes and prevention of deterioration mechanisms in the various imaging systems are examined. Emphasis is placed on process identification. The problems of handling, storing, and exhibiting photographic collections are discussed. Conservation options for the treatment of photographs are considered, ranging from minimal intervention options to full treatments.

Enrollment is open to students in conservation and in art history. This course may be taken in fulfillment of the Foundations II requirement for art historians, who must also enroll in FINH-GA.2302.007 for one additional point. Students must have the permission of the instructors before registering for this course.

Courses for Conservators

All courses are 3 points unless otherwise noted.

MATERIAL SCIENCE OF ART & ARCHAEOLOGY I

(Lecture) FINH-GA.2101.001

Norbert Baer

Thursday 3:00-5:00pm

The course extends over two terms and is related to Technology and Structure of Works of Art I and II. Emphasis during this term is on problems related to the study and conservation of organic materials found in art and archaeology from ancient to contemporary periods. The preparation, manufacture, and identification of the materials used in the construction and conservation of works of art are studied, as are mechanisms of degradation and the physicochemical aspects of conservation treatments.

Enrollment is limited to conservation students and other qualified students with the permission of the faculty of the Conservation Center. This course is required for first-year conservation students.

TECHNOLOGY & STRUCTURE OF WORKS OF ART I: ORGANIC MATERIALS

(Lecture and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2103.001

Conservation Center faculty and consultants

Coordinator: Margo Delidow

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am-Noon (*occasionally 10:00am-1:00pm*)

The course introduces first-year conservation students to organic materials and the methods used to produce works of art, archaeological and ethnographic objects, and other historical artifacts, as well as to aspects of their deterioration and treatment histories. Emphasis is placed on the accurate identification of materials and description of techniques, the identification and evaluation of subsequent alterations, and an understanding of treatment history. As much as is practical and possible, students learn by looking at and examining objects directly. Each student is required to give three oral or written reports per semester on objects in the study collection and at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition, grading will be based on a final exam. Classes may be a combination of lecture and laboratory. In order to accommodate field trips or laboratory exercises, some sessions may last longer than two hours and are arranged by the instructor with the class at the beginning of the term.

Enrollment is limited to conservation students and other qualified students with the permission of the faculty of the Conservation Center. This course is required for first-year conservation students.

INSTRUMENTAL ANALYSIS I

(Lecture) FINH-GA.2105.001

Marco Leona

Monday 10:00am-Noon

The course provides an introduction to instrumental methods of examination and analysis that find frequent use in the field of conservation. As many of these methods invoke the use of x-rays, a significant part of the course is devoted to an understanding of their properties and applications. Methods of x-ray analysis, including radiography, diffraction, and spectrometry, are reviewed and accompanied by hands-on demonstrations and laboratory exercises aimed toward developing student capability for independent use. Equipment housed in both the Conservation Center and The Metropolitan Museum of Art is utilized and made available to the students. Proficiency is gained through analytical projects, homework assignments, and classroom discussion.

Enrollment is limited to students following the program in Conservation and to other qualified students with the permission of the faculty of the Conservation Center. This course is required for second-year conservation students.

EASEL PAINTINGS I

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2201.001

Dianne Dwyer Modestini

Hours to be arranged.

In the course of the semester, each student completes the consolidation, cleaning, filling, retouching, and varnishing of an Old Master painting drawn from Samuel H. Kress Collections in museums and universities across the United States. Examination, documentation of condition, and comparative study of other works by the same artist and school accompany the treatment. The student must provide a full report, including photographic records, other examination findings, and analytical results as indicated. The making of cross sections and their analysis is incorporated into the course in addition to imaging with X-ray radiography and Infrared Reflectography. Approaches to cleaning, compensation, and issues in connoisseurship relating to the particular painting are emphasized. Students must have satisfactorily completed Technology and Structure of Works of Art. Priority is given to those students intending to specialize in paintings conservation.

Enrollment is limited to students following the program in Conservation. Students must have the permission of the instructor before registering for this course.

THE CONSERVATION TREATMENT OF PRINTS & DRAWINGS I

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2240.001

Stephanie Lussier

Friday 10:00am-1:00pm

The materials and techniques of works of art on paper are reviewed with attention given to those characteristics that are vulnerable to inappropriate conservation treatments. Basic conservation treatments are introduced—surface cleaning, washing, drying, tear repair, and flattening—with emphasis on examination and documentation. Each student is expected to complete several partial exercises and at least one full conservation treatment, including all testing, research, treatment, and documentation.

Enrollment is limited to advanced students in conservation. Students must have the permission of the instructor before registering for this course.

THE CONSERVATION TREATMENT OF STONE SCULPTURE

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2221.001

Michele D. Marincola

Thursday 1:00-4:00pm

Students receive advanced training in the examination and treatment of stone sculpture. Beginning with rock and mineral identification, the course continues with a review of the common forms of stone deterioration with the goal of enabling students to understand probable causes of decay. Emphasis is placed as well on honing treatment skills such as choice of methodology and materials, cleaning, consolidation, fills, and retouching. Each student is assigned a sculpture and is expected to complete all aspects of its treatment, including examination, analysis, and documentation. In addition, there is one group project for the class to complete.

Enrollment is limited to advanced students in conservation with the permission of the instructor required before registration.

FUNCTION IN CONSERVATION: EXAMINATION & TREATMENT OF UTILITARIAN OBJECTS

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2231.001

Margo Delidow

Hours to be arranged.

The course introduces students to the conservation of functional design objects. Students will learn about the preservation concerns through the condition assessment, documentation, research and treatment of design objects. Preventative conservation will also be explored through recommendations for exhibition, storage, and shipping. Class time will include instructor lectures, field trips, laboratory treatment time, and guest lectures. Techniques taught/demonstrated in class will reflect the methods of manufacture and condition of the chosen objects. Student evaluation will be based upon research and object treatments,

and a formal presentation. Enrollment is limited to advanced students in conservation. Students must have the permission of the instructor before registering for this course.

Enrollment is limited to advanced students in conservation with the permission of the instructor required before registration.

EXAMINATION & CONSERVATION OF MODERN & CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS II

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2206.001

Suzanne Siano

Wednesday, 10:00am-noon

The conservation of modern and contemporary paintings requires a set of skills that are different from those learned in studying Old Master pictures. Students in this course will: learn how to examine 20th /21st -century paintings and to write condition reports and treatment proposals; recognize the problems that are common to this period; become familiar with the materials used to make these works and the range of options to consolidate, clean, fill and retouch them; understand the roles of the living artist in conservation and of the conservator in contemporary art; and learn about special problems such as colorfield paintings, oversized pictures, raw canvas, devarnishing and condition problems arising from inherent vice and frequent handling. The students will visit private and museum conservation labs specializing in modern art and one of the major auction houses prior to a sale. Each student will be assigned a painting for treatment within the semester. Students will be required to complete the treatment of a painting, submit a condition and treatment report for the assigned artwork as well as a condition report for an artwork at auction. The class will be held in the studio of Modern Art Conservation located in Chelsea.

Students must have satisfactorily completed Technology and Structure of Works of Art I and Principles of Conservation. Priority is given to those students intending to specialize in paintings conservation.

Enrollment is limited to four; students must have the permission of the instructor before registering.

INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION: TREATMENT OF DETERIORATED WORKS OF ART I

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2280.001

Conservation Center faculty and consultants

Hours to be arranged.

The student is assigned specific deteriorated objects related to their field of special interest. The student examines and records their condition and then recommends and performs courses of treatment. A review is made of published records of treatment of related works. Students submit written reports of treatment together with supporting illustrative materials.

Enrollment is limited to advanced students in conservation. A written project proposal must be approved by both faculty and supervising conservator prior to registration. This course is also offered in the spring and summer terms.

INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION: EXAMINATION & ANALYSIS I

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2282.001

Conservation Center faculty and consultants

Hours to be arranged.

This course involves the instrumental and scientific analysis of materials of a specific nature. Emphasis is placed on research to develop new methods of examining, preserving, and restoring works of art exhibiting particular types of structural failure. The results lead to a publishable paper.

Enrollment is limited to advanced students in conservation. A written project proposal must be approved by both faculty and supervising conservation scientist prior to registration. The course is also offered in the spring and summer terms.

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