

## Spring 2012

### Conservation Courses for Art Historians and Archaeologists

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

#### ISSUES IN CONSERVATION: HISTORICAL & ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DISCIPLINE

(Lecture, 4 points) FINH-GA.2312.001

**Michele Marincola**

Wednesday 3:00-5:00pm

This course will examine the development of art conservation in both theory and practice from its earliest manifestations to the current decade. An historical overview of the field will serve as background for a more detailed exploration of core issues in preservation and restoration. How does conservation change the appearance – and by extension, the meaning - of a work of art? How have the theoretical underpinnings of the discipline evolved, and what role do they play in practice today? And how has conservation responded to the enormous social, historical and intellectual changes of the last 100 years? Topics to be discussed include the role of artist-restorers; the rise of a discipline; the impact of science and scientific inquiry; cleaning controversies and the lure of positivist thinking; making mistakes; historic preservation, the development of ethical standards and the persistence of ambiguity; decision-making in conservation; conservation and the law; and the challenge of modern and contemporary art. The course will be held in a lecture format, with additional meetings in smaller groups to encourage discussion. Readings will range from theoretical treatises to case studies of treatments, but no pre-requisite of scientific knowledge is required.

*The course is open to all art history, archaeology and conservation students. This course may be taken in fulfillment of the Foundations II requirement for art historians. Art history students must enroll as a four-credit course and conservation students must enroll as a three-credit course. Students must have the permission of the instructor before registering for this course.*

#### CONSERVATION OF MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART

(Seminar and Laboratory, 4 points) FINH-GA.2307.001

**Margo Delidow**

Monday 10:00am-12:00pm

This course provides an introduction to the decision-making process for the conservation of modern and contemporary works of art. The range of works includes plastics, modern paintings, metal alloys, time-based media, installations and ephemera. The student will perform extensive research on a case study in order to understand the material structure, history, context and the concept of the artwork. Students will learn to

develop conservation-restoration strategies for modern materials, audio-visual media as well as for electronic, kinetic and digital works of art. Potential projects include surveys, research and treatment. The project may focus on more theoretical and/or practical problems of conservation of modern and contemporary art and objects. The project may ideally be realized in collaboration and within a partner museum or another institution.

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## **Courses for Conservators**

All courses are 3 points unless otherwise noted.

### **MATERIAL SCIENCE OF ART & ARCHAEOLOGY II**

(Lecture) FINH-GA.2102.001

**Hannelore Roemich**

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 the chemistry and physics of inorganic materials found in art and archaeological objects 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. Each student is required to complete a laboratory assignment with a related report and an oral presentation.

*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 II: INORGANIC MATERIALS**

(Lecture and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2104.001

**Conservation Center faculty and consultants**

**Coordinator: Margo Delidow and Hannelore Roemich**

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

The course introduces first-year conservation students to inorganic 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 reports per semester on objects in the study collection and at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 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 II**

(Lecture) FINH-GA.2106.001

**Marco Leona**

Monday 10:00am-Noon

The course is a continuation of Instrumental Analysis I and provides a fundamental background for the understanding of the increasing number of analytical methods that find application in the field of conservation. The course focuses on methods of instrumental analysis used for the study of organic materials. Lectures on the specific techniques are accompanied by hands-on demonstrations and laboratory exercises aimed toward developing student capability for independent use.

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## **PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATION**

(Lecture and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2107.001

**Conservation Center faculty and consultants**

**Coordinator: Jean Dommermuth**

Tuesday 1:00-5:00pm

This course provides an introduction to current practices in conservation, including examination and documentation, adhesion, consolidation, structural support, cleaning, and compensation. Methodologies for approaching examinations and treatments and principles of ethics are discussed. These topics are presented as they relate to divergent specialties of conservation, including paintings, paper, and objects.

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## **PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION**

(Lecture and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2108.001

**Hannelore Roemich**

**Steven Weintraub**

Monday 3:00-5:00pm

The course introduces students to all relevant issues of the museum environment: temperature and relative humidity, gaseous and particulate pollutants, light, and biological attack. The essential role of these parameters in the process of deterioration of cultural property is investigated. Guidelines for the proper storage, display, and transport of art objects are reviewed. Practical exercises include environmental monitoring of various sites and the evaluation of preventive conservation strategies. Cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment, emergency preparedness, and disaster response are exercised on selected case studies. Grading is based on an assigned laboratory experiment, a written report and an oral presentation. Students are also requested to participate in a practical exercise on show case refurbishment.

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## **EASEL PAINTINGS III**

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2203.001

**Nica Gutman Rieppi**

Hours to be arranged.

This course is the second part of a two semester course dealing with the structural treatment of paintings on canvas, specifically the history and practical application of lining paintings. Instruction will include the various approaches to lining, such as glue, wax, cold and BEVA linings, preparation of lining supports, use of the vacuum hot-table, re-stretching of lined paintings as well as lining reversals. The procedures learned and/or demonstrated depend on the condition of the particular paintings available. The emphasis is on nineteenth- and twentieth-century paintings. In the course of the semester the student gains familiarity with classic conservation materials. Historical and theoretical issues will be addressed as well. The structural class may be taken subsequent to Easel Paintings I or II or separately, depending on the interests of the individual student.

*Students must have satisfactorily completed Technology and Structure of Works of Art I. Priority is given to students intending to specialize in paintings conservation. Enrollment is limited to four; students must have the permission of the instructor before registering for this course.*

**THE CONSERVATION TREATMENT OF PRINTS & DRAWINGS II**

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2241.001

**Reba Fishman Snyder**

Friday 10:00am-1:00pm

Additional conservation treatments for prints and drawings are discussed with attention given to stain reduction techniques involving washing and the use of the suction table. Each student is assigned two to three works of art on paper and is expected to complete all aspects of their treatment.

*Enrollment is limited to advanced students in conservation. Students must have satisfactorily completed Readings in Paper Conservation and Treatment of Prints and Drawings I. Students must have the permission of the instructor before registering for this course.*

**THE CONSERVATION TREATMENT OF INORGANIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL & ETHNOGRAPHIC OBJECTS**

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2222.001

**Samantha Alderson**

Wednesday 5:00–7:00pm

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the conservation of archaeological and ethnographic objects created from inorganic materials. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition of visual skills used in assessing condition and treatment problems. Each student examines a variety of objects, learning proper documentation and examination techniques, and then carries out treatment of those objects. The object materials may include ceramics, stone, glass, and metals. In addition to object stabilization and treatment, environmental concerns, storage mounts, and packing strategies, as well as appropriate ethics and standards for archaeological and ethnographic objects, are discussed. Where possible, artifacts in New York collections are examined.

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

**ANALYTICAL METHODS IN CONSERVATION: AN ADVANCED SCIENCE COURSE IN CONSERVATION**

(Seminar) FINH-GA.2264.001

**Chris McGlinchey**

**Nancy Odegaard**

Wednesday 10:00am-12:00pm

The seminar is devoted to current methods of scientific research as applied to the technological study and preservation of art objects. A primary purpose is to develop a capacity for critical review of the literature that involves an increasingly wide range of analytical methods for the investigation of historical technology

and, in particular, the characterization of materials and structures on which such studies often depend. Class sessions are devoted to topics of interest to the participants and invoke student presentation and discussion based on weekly reading assignments. Students must have the permission of the instructor before registering for this course.

## **ISSUES IN CONSERVATION: HISTORICAL & ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DISCIPLINE**

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## **INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION: TREATMENT OF DETERIORATED WORKS OF ART II**

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2281.001

### **Conservation Center faculty and consultants**

Hours to be arranged.

The student is assigned specific deteriorated objects related to a 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. Written reports of treatment together with supporting illustrative materials are submitted.

*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 fall and summer terms.*

## **INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION: EXAMINATION & ANALYSIS II**

(Seminar and Laboratory) FINH-GA.2283.001

### **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 fall and summer terms.*

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