GSEM B602: Principles of Preservation and Conservation of Cultural Heritage
Spring 2017
Monday 2:00–5:00 pm, College Hall 251 [, Canaday 205, and College Hall 301]

Instructors:
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Course Description:
This graduate course provides insights into the practice of preservation and conservation and enhances the understanding of their significance in the world of cultural heritage. This is achieved through readings, case studies, participatory demonstrations, assignments, and laboratory visits. Special emphasis is placed on the principles and objectives of preservation and conservation so that students get a better sense of the ethics that guide the decision making process of conservators and methods used to evaluate and treat cultural heritage materials. Practical sessions, such as risk assessment, packing for storage, and joining of ceramics, will enable students to develop fundamental skills.
This seminar combines theory and practice. More specifically, there are short lectures introducing new topics, and discussions based on assigned readings, but also praxis units, such as demonstrations, exercises for students, and fieldtrips to various conservation laboratories (see handout).

Course Requirements:
▪ thorough preparation and energetic participation in class discussions
▪ posting of weekly reflections on the core readings (1–2 paragraphs) on Moodle for meetings in weeks 1 to 5; due on Sunday by 6:00 p.m. Please read the posts of your fellow students before coming to class.
▪ completion of two practical assignments (storage mount and restored flower pot; due on Friday, March 3 (week 7 of classes) at 5 p.m.)
▪ oral presentation of an artifact treatment report held in our Collection (ca. 10 minutes) and critical evaluation of a treatment report (c. 5 minutes) on February 20 (week 6); all reports are available on Moodle
▪ a total of three short reports on conservation laboratories visited in the course of this semester (c. 1 page per visit; to be submitted the evening before the seminar following the field trip). Two of the three reports should feature the labs at PAFA (March 20, week 10) and Winterthur (April 17, week 14), while one report should tackle a lab visited during one of the optional fieldtrips.
▪ final paper on two artifacts (ca. 12–15 pages excluding bibliography and illustrations; due on Friday, May 12 at 9:00 p.m.) preceded by a short oral presentation (c. 10 minutes) in the last class meeting on April 24; objects are to be picked in consultation with the instructor by Friday, March 17 (end of week 8).
Final Note:

There will be some hands-on projects and demonstrations during class time this quarter. If you have fine motor skills impairment or chemical sensitivities/allergies of any kind, please notify the instructors immediately so that they can ensure everyone’s safety during these learning experiences.
Schedule of Readings

Note: This is a tentative syllabus and subject to change by the instructors in response to students’ interests and preferences. All readings are either available electronically through Moodle or can be checked out from the hardcopy reserve at Carpenter Library.

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO THE CONCEPTS, THEORY, AND HISTORY OF CONSERVATION

WEEK 1: January 20 (Fr) [Make-up Class Held in Carpenter 15 and College Hall 301]

Introduction; Conservation Materials I. Storage Material
Topics: Overview and Introduction; Terms and Concepts (Preservation, (Preventive) Conservation, Repair/Restoration, Cultural Heritage, Ethics); Development of Codes of Ethics; Introduction to Materials Used by Conservators I; Safe Handling Instructions.
Exercise: Designing a Storage Mount for an Object in our Art and Artifact Collection (cf. handout).

Core Readings:

- International Institute for Conservation (IIC), Memorandum of Association: [https://www.iiconservation.org/system/files/core_docs/15-mem-assoc.pdf](https://www.iiconservation.org/system/files/core_docs/15-mem-assoc.pdf)
- Definitions from AIC: [http://www.conservation-us.org/about-conservation/definitions#.V__QBMkgubM](http://www.conservation-us.org/about-conservation/definitions#.V__QBMkgubM)

Other Readings (on Handling and Storage):


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**WEEK 2: January 23 (Mo)**

*(Archaeological) Site Conservation and Management; Condition Terminology*

Topics: Publications and Online Resources; Cultural Heritage and Property; Sites as Cultural Heritage and World Heritage; Access and Tourism; Conservation Practices and Ideas for Select Sites; Preventive Conservation; Emergency Response Plan for Archaeological Sites; Condition Terminology for Cultural Heritage on Site and in Storage.

Exercise: Assessing the Condition of Objects held in our Collection (for glossary, cf. handout).

**Core Readings:**


Choose one of the following two readings and focus on site conservation:


- Roberts, Caroline, I. 2013. “Emergency Response Plan. To be Used in the Event of an Emergency or Disaster, for the Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology and the Kaman-Kalehöyük
Archaeological Museum”. *Anatolian Archaeological Studies* 18, pp. 133–149 [focus on information that is relevant for sites].

Other Readings:

WEEK 3: January 30 (Mo)

**Cultural Heritage in Storage. Collecting and Collections: Now and Then with Guest Speaker Dr. Monique Scott (Bryn Mawr College, Director of the Museum Studies Program)**

Topics: Mounting of Plaster Casts by Adam Jenkins; History of Collecting Art and Artifacts; Role of Objects in National Identity; Commodification of Cultural Heritage; Types of Collections and Museums; History of Conservation; Access and Collection Management Policies; Display of Art and Artifacts (Including Those of Living Artists and Human Remains); Condition Reports.

Core Readings:

Other Readings:

Additional Optional Activity:
- Opportunity to talk to object conservator Alisa Vignalo, who will be treating objects in College Hall 301, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WEEK 4: February 6 (Mo) [Seminar held from 2–4 p.m. in College Hall 251 and 5–6 p.m. in Carpenter 21]

Stewardship of Cultural Heritage (Material)
Topics: Legal Aspects and Responsibilities of Collecting; Cultural Property and Stewardship of Cultural Heritage (Material); Provenance Research; Ethics of Exhibiting; and Environmental Conditions/Best Practices for the Storage and Exhibition of Collections (in Preparation for Informal Assignment).

Core Readings:

Other Readings:
Additional Activities:
- Lecture by Yoshi Nishio (President and Senior Conservator, Nishio Conservation Studio) on the Conservation of Bryn Mawr College’s Kano Screen on Monday, January 27 at 5 p.m. in Carpenter 21 (required); informal reception in the London Room for GSEM students only, 4:20–4:50 p.m. (optional).

WEEK 5: February 13 (Mo), Meet in College Hall 251

Environmental Sustainability; Conservation Materials II. Adhesives and Consolidants
Topics: Storage; Disaster Planning, Preparedness, and Response; Introduction to Materials Used by Conservators II. Adhesives and Consolidants.
Exercise: Disaster Response Exercise; Environmental Conditions in Canaday Library Rare Book Room.

Core Readings:
Other Readings:


WEEK 6: February 20 (Mo), Meet in College Hall 301

**Past and Present Treatments**
Topics: Understanding Treatment Reports of Objects in Collections; Historical Approaches to Restoration of Cultural Heritage Material and East vs. West; Conservation Training.
Exercises: Student Presentation of Treatment Reports (cf. handout); Mending a Broken Flowerpot.

Core Readings:

- Treatment Reports: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4jOiUU-t0RBZGZQcHFkY3c0eUU?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4jOiUU-t0RBZGZQcHFkY3c0eUU?usp=sharing)

Other Readings:

WEEK 7: February 27 (Mo), Meet in College Hall 301

Conservation Practices: Examination, Documentation, Cleaning

Topics: Examination Techniques (UV Light, Raking Light, Infrared, Microscopy, X-Radiography); Accessioning; Documentation (Condition Report, Photography, Measurements); Principles of Cleaning Strategies.

Exercises: Writing a Condition Report; Applying Accession Numbers, and Cleaning of Objects.

Core Readings:

Other Readings:
WEEK 8: March 5–12

Spring Break – No Seminar!

Suggested Readings: - Just for Fun-
- Passa Non Passa: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYJOWEqm9DM
- Roy’s Food Repair: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCxscU0hWok
- Recent Setbacks in Conservation 2 (1986).

PART II: MATERIAL BASED CONSERVATION

WEEK 9: March 13 (Mo), Meet in Canaday 205

Conservation of Photographs with Guest Lecturer Debra Hess Norris (University of Delaware)

Core Readings:
- Everts, Sarah. 2013. “Saving Endangered Photographs. Scientists Use the Molecular Makeup of Million-dollar Masterpieces and Family Snapshots to Conserve and Authenticate Them”. Chemical & Engineering News 91(8), pp. 9–14. [Note that there is a link to the reading on our Moodle course page but that it is also available as a Word document, in case the link is broken.]
WEEK 10: March 20 (Mo, 12:00–4:30 p.m.), class taught at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

Paintings, Painted Surfaces, and Pigment Analysis with Guest Speaker Mary McGinn (Painting Conservator at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts)
Topics: Typical Condition Issues for Paintings and Painted Surfaces; Analysis of Painting Materials; Exercise: Cleaning a Painted Surface; PLM and Pigment ID

Core Readings:

Other Readings:

Additional Optional Activity:
- March 24 (F): Tour of the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

WEEK 11: March 27 (Mo), Meet in College Hall 251

Ceramic and Glass; Organic Material (Excluding Textiles)
Topics: Discussion of Lab Visits (CCAHA and PAFA); Typical Conservation Condition Issues for Ceramics and Glass; Desalination; Typical Conservation Condition Issues for Wood, Leather, Lacquer, and Ivory.
Exercise: Microchemical Testing; Thin-Sections; Identification of Different Types of Ivory and Fiber ID.

Core Readings:


Other Readings:


WEEK 12: April 3 (Mo), Meet in College Hall 251

Stone, Metal, Cellulosics (including Textiles)
Topics: Typical Condition Issues for Stone, Mosaics, and Metal; Typical Condition Issues for Paper Based Materials and Asian Paintings; Typical Condition Issues for Textiles.
Exercises: Microchemical Testing and Hinging.

Core Readings:


Other Readings:

Additional Optional Activity:
- April 5 (W): Tour of the Lunder Conservation Center at the Smithsonian Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, 10–11:30 a.m., and the Hirschhorn Conservation Laboratory, 1–3 p.m. (with free timed entrance ticket for Yayoi Kusama show, 3–5 p.m.)

WEEK 13: April 10 (Mo), Meet in Canaday 205

Basics of In-Situ Conservation with Guest Speaker Lynn A. Grant (Head Conservator at University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology)
Topics: Discussion of Lab Visit; Typical Condition Issues for Organic and Inorganic Materials; Lifting Techniques; Conservation Materials.

Core Readings:

Other Readings (see also separate handout):
Additional Optional Activity:

- April 14: Tour of the Conservation and Technical Research Laboratories at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, 1–4 p.m.

Core Readings:

WEEK 14: April 17 (Mo)

Tour of the Scientific Research and Analysis Laboratory (SRAL) at Winterthur and Meeting with Conservation Graduate Students, 1–4 p.m.

WEEK 15: April 24 (Mo), Meet in College Hall 251

Discussion of Lab Visit; Student Presentations; Course Evaluations