

University of Pittsburgh
Collections Conservation -LIS2216
Summer 2008
Monday, 6:00-9:15PM
Room 337, Library Resource Facility (Thomas Boulevard)

Instructor: Jean Ann Croft
Office: Preservation Department, Room 205
Office Hrs: By Appointment
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Course Description: This class will provide an overview of, and historical context for, the preservation of cultural heritage on a local and global scale. Students will learn the definition of “preservation” and how it relates to, yet is different from, “conservation” and “restoration.” In this course, students will be exposed to and analyze the views, concepts, ethics, laws and preservation techniques of the library, archival, museum, and anthropology communities as they apply to cultural resources. This course will introduce students to some of the technical aspects of archival and preservation work as well as the challenges associated with conservation, collections management, museum exhibitions, marketing, development and overall administration of cultural heritage materials.

This course will be limited to 12 students and offered in the Preservation Department Laboratory in the Library Resource Facility on Thomas Boulevard.

The prerequisite for this course is LIS2214- Introduction to Library and Archival Preservation.

Course Goals:

1. Evaluate different preservation principles and implement the most appropriate preservation technique in a library or archival environment.
2. Discuss critically current issues concerning the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage.
3. Locate, utilize, and cite the basic sources including library, internet, and professional organizations for the course themes.
4. Research, develop, design, fabricate, and install a small exhibit, working in collaboration with other members of the class and with representatives of the Archive Service Center mounting an exhibit.

Course Expectations:

Academic integrity:

- As members of this community, you are responsible upholding the Academic Integrity Policies. It is vital to your success as a student in the School of Information Sciences that you review these policies and maintain a high level of integrity in all of your work. These policies are available to you on the Office of the Provost website at <http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/>.

Attendance and Participation:

- Regular and punctual attendance at class is required and defined as attendance and preparation at not less than 80% of the classes (9 classes) for the semester. You are allowed 2 absences (excused or unexcused). Tardiness and leaving class prior to dismissal in excess of 10 minutes will be counted as a half-absence for that day, with 2 tardies resulting in a full absence. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the student being certified out of the course with either a grade of "U" (Unsatisfactory -- No Credit) or "F" (Failure). Attendance and Participation are crucial to your success in this course.
- Students are also expected to complete all required readings. This is especially important since a portion of the class sessions will be discussions about or exercises based on the readings. There will

also be class-specific assignments throughout the term. Class participation is a sizable portion of the grade. Students should be prepared to enter into class discussions and to raise questions reflecting their reading and interests. There will also be several small group presentations on cases or investigations throughout the term.

- Appreciation and Respect for Classmates: You are expected to maintain respect for your classmates and their points of view.

Required Assignments:

- Assignments are due on the dates assigned. Late written assignments and final projects will be lowered by a total of one letter grade except in cases of extreme circumstances, **previously** discussed with the instructor, such as prolonged illness or a death in the family. All written work **MUST** be typed and double-spaced, using reasonable margins and no larger than 12-point font. You are responsible for all assignments given or collected on days you are absent.
- Team work and overall class participation

Required Reading:

Price, Nicholas Stanley, Talley, Mansfield Kirby, Melucco Vaccaro, Alexandra. *Historical and Philosophical Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage*. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 1996

Pye, Elizabeth. *Caring for the Past: Issues in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums*. London: James & James Ltd., 2001.

Texts are available for purchase at the University of Pittsburgh Book Center.

Assignments and Grading:

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Assignment #1 – Exhibit Review	June 2 nd	5 points
Assignment #2- Collection Condition Assessment	June 9 th	20 points
Assignment #3 – Education Plan and Press Release	June 23 rd	20 points
Assignment #4 – Exhibit Proposal	July 7 th	20 points
Assignment #5 – Grant Proposal Inquiry	July 21 st	10 points
Assignment #6 – Exhibit Installation and Thank you	July 28 th	10 points
Class Participation, Team Work, and Discussion Leadership		15 points
Total Points		100 Points

Grading Scale

A	93% -100%	C	73% -76%
A-	90% -92%	C-	70% -72%
B+	87% -89%	D+	67% -69%
B	83% -86%	D	63% -66%
B-	80% -82%	D-	60% -62%
C+	77% -79%	F	0% -59%

Academic Integrity Policy

The University of Pittsburgh policy states that plagiarism will not be tolerated. In your written assignments, it is your ethical responsibility to compose your own work and to identify any sources you use in your work.

Plagiarism will result in an automatic F in the course.

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, please contact me as well as the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union (412) 648-7890 or (412) 383-7355 TTY as early as possible in the term.

NB – This syllabus is subject to change, but you will be given as much notice as possible if the class schedule is altered.

Course Schedule and Readings:

May 12th: Class 1- Introduction to Collections Conservation

- Lab – Sort and organize archival collection

Review the following websites:

ICOM: International Council of Museums: <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/icom/>

AAM: American Association of Museums: <http://www.aam-us.org/>

Please read the “About Museums” section accessed from the tool bar at the top of the page.

A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America’s Collections. A Project of Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services: 2005 Heritage Preservation, Inc. Summary Report - <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/HHI/summary.html>

The Museum Handbook, Part 1: Museum Collections. National Park Service, Museum Management Program, Washington, DC: 2006

Chapter 1: National Park Service Museums and Collections

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/MHI/Chapter1.pdf>

May 19th: Class 2 – Evaluating collections for conservation and museum use

- Lab – De-frame photographic materials, assess condition of collection, and create inventory for collection

Pye, Elizabeth. *Caring for the Past: Issues in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums.* London: James and James Ltd, 2001.

Chapter 1 – Archaeology, museums and the ‘heritage industry’: a context for conservation pgs. 9-21

Chapter 2 – Conservation Examined pgs. 22-36

The Museum Handbook, Part 1: Museum Collections. National Park Service, Museum Management Program, Washington, DC: 2006

Chapter 2: Scope of Museum Collections

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/MHI/Chapter%202.pdf>

Chapter 3: Preservation: Getting Started

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/MHI/CHAP3.pdf>

California Needs Assessment.

<http://calpreservation.org/management/needs-assessment.html>

Patkus, Beth. *Assessing Preservation Needs: A Self-Survey.* Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA: 2003

A step-by-step guide to surveying an institution’s collections, designed for small to medium-sized institutions with limited budgets and minimal preservation knowledge.

<http://www.nedcc.org/resources/downloads/apnssg.pdf>

Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day – No class – Enjoy!!!

June 2 - Session 3: History of Conservation and the Emergence of Discipline

- **Assignment #1 – Exhibit Review Due**
- Lab – De-frame photographic materials, assess condition of collection, and create inventory for collection

Required Readings:

Pye, Elizabeth. Caring for the Past: Issues in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums. London: James and James Ltd, 2001.

Chapter 3 – The history of Conservation, pgs. 37-56

Price, Nicholas Stanley, Talley, Mansfield Kirby, Melucco Vaccaro, Alexandra. Historical and Philosophical Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 1996

Part III: Introduction– pgs. 200-211

Part III: Marguerite Yourcenar – That Mighty Sculptor, Time – pgs. 212-215

Part III: Paul Philippot – Restoration from the Perspective of the Humanities – pgs. 216 – 229.

Part III: Cesare Brandi – Theory of Restoration, I – pgs. 230 – 235

Part III: Giovanni Carbonara – The Integration of the Image: Problems in the Restoration of Monuments – pgs. 236-243

Part IV: Introduction – pgs. 262 – 267

Part IV: Paul Philippot – Historic Preservation: Philosophy, Criteria, Guidelines, 1 – pgs. 268 – 274

June 9 - Session 4: Interpreting objects for history, conservation, function, and use

- **Assignment #2 – Collection Condition Assessment Due**
- Lab – De-frame photographic materials, assess condition of collection, and create inventory for collection

Required Readings:

Pye, Elizabeth. Caring for the Past: Issues in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums. London: James and James Ltd, 2001.

Chapter 4 – The meaning of objects, pgs. 57-76

Chapter 5 – Change in materials and objects, pgs. 77-98

Price, Nicholas Stanley, Talley, Mansfield Kirby, Melucco Vaccaro, Alexandra. Historical and Philosophical Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 1996

Part III: Albert France – Lanord – Knowing How to “Question” the Object before Restoring It – pgs. 244 – 247

Part IV: R. H. Marijnissen – Degradation, Conservation, and Restoration of Works of Art: Historical Overview – pgs.275 - 280

Part IV: Sheldon Keck – Further Materials for a History of Conservation – pgs. 281 – 287

Part IV: Orietta Rossi Pinelli – The Surgery of Memory: Ancient Sculpture and Historical Restorations – pgs. 288-305

***June 16– Session 5: Interpreting objects for history, conservation, function, and use - Continued**

- Guest Speaker, Wendy Pflug, Reference Archivist, Archives Service Center
- **Class will meet in the K. Leroy Irvis Reading Room, 1st floor, Hillman Library**
- Archival and Museum Education
- No Lab Today

Required Readings:

Price, Nicholas Stanley, Talley, Mansfield Kirby, Melucco Vaccaro, Alexandra. Historical and Philosophical Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 1996

Part V: Introduction – pgs. 308-313

Part V: Eugène-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc – Restoration – pgs. 314-318

Part V: William Morris – Manifesto of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings – pgs. 319-321

Part V: John Ruskin – The Lamp of Memory, II – pgs. 322-323

The Museum Handbook, Part III: Museum Collections Use. National Park Service, Museum Management Program, Washington, DC: 2006

Chapter 1: Evaluating and Documenting Museums Collection Use

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/MHIII/mh3ch1.pdf>

Chapter 6: Other Uses of Museum Collections

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/MHIII/mh3ch6.pdf>

June 23 – Session 6: Planning for exhibitions

- **Assignment #3 – Education Plan and Press Release due**
- Lab – Present Education Plans

Price, Nicholas Stanley, Talley, Mansfield Kirby, Melucco Vaccaro, Alexandra. Historical and Philosophical Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 1996

Part VI: Introduction – pgs. 326-331

Part VI: Max J. Friedländer – On Restorations – pgs. 332-334

Part VI: Albert Philippot and Paul Philippot – The Problem and Integration of Lacunae in the Restoration of Paintings – pgs. 335-338

Part VI: Cesare Brandi – Theory of Restoration II – pgs. 339- 342

The Museum Handbook, Part III: Museum Collections Use. National Park Service, Museum Management Program, Washington, DC: 2006

Chapter 7: Using Museum Collections in Exhibits – Sections A – Section K

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/MHIII/mh3ch7.pdf>

*June 30 – Session 7: Planning for exhibitions – Continued

- Guest Speaker - Brian McMillan Cumer,

Price, Nicholas Stanley, Talley, Mansfield Kirby, Melucco Vaccaro, Alexandra. Historical and Philosophical Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 1996

Part VI: Paolo Mora, Laura Mora, and Paul Philippot – Problems of Presentation – pgs. 343-354

Part VI: Umberto Baldini – Theory of Restoration and Methodological Unity – pgs. 355-357

Part VI: Paul Philippot – Historic Preservation: Philosophy, Criteria, Guidelines, II – pgs. 358-363

The Museum Handbook, Part III: Museum Collections Use. National Park Service, Museum Management Program, Washington, DC: 2006

Chapter 7: Using Museum Collections in Exhibits – Sections L – Section R

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/MHIII/mh3ch7.pdf>

July 7 – Session 8: Administration and Grant Proposals

- **Assignment # 4 – Exhibit Proposal due**
- Lab – re-house archival collection , select materials for exhibition, draft text for object labels

Pye, Elizabeth. Caring for the Past: Issues in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums. London: James and James Ltd, 2001.

Chapter 8 – Working Relations, pgs. 149 – 165

SOLINET Preservation Publications

Funding Resources for Preservation - <http://www.solinet.net/emplibfile/FUNDING.pdf>

Preservation Budget Planning - <http://www.solinet.net/emplibfile/budgetplan.pdf>

Preservation 101, Andover, MA: Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA:2008.

Section 8, Program Funding: Please read the “Budgeting,” “Funding Sources,” and “Grantwriting” leaflets

http://unfacilitated.preservation101.org/session8/expl_fund.asp

July 14 – Session 9: Conservation Treatment

- Lab - re-house archival collection, select materials for exhibition, draft text for object labels

Pye, Elizabeth. Caring for the Past: Issues in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums. London: James and James Ltd, 2001.

Chapter 6 – Issues in practice: assessment and decision, pgs. 99-120.

Chapter 7 – Issues in practice: conservation procedures, pgs. 121-148

Price, Nicholas Stanley, Talley, Mansfield Kirby, Melucco Vaccaro, Alexandra. Historical and Philosophical Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 1996

Part VII: Ernst van de Wetering – The Surface of Objects and Museum Style – pgs. 415-421

The Museum Handbook, Part I: Museum Collections. National Park Service, Museum Management Program, Washington, DC: 2006

Chapter 8: Conservation Treatment

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/MHI/CHAP8.pdf>

July 21 – Session 10: Communicating Conservation

- **Assignment #5 - Grant Proposal Inquiries Due**
- Lab – Exhibit mock-up

Pye, Elizabeth. Caring for the Past: Issues in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums. London: James and James Ltd, 2001.

Chapter 9 – Development of conservation, pgs. 166 – 182

Chapter 10 – Communicating conservation, pgs. 183 – 200

Price, Nicholas Stanley, Talley, Mansfield Kirby, Melucco Vaccaro, Alexandra. Historical and Philosophical Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 1996

Part VIII: Introduction – pgs. 424 – 431

Part VIII: Giovanni Urbani – The Science and Art of Conservation of Cultural Property – pgs. 445 – 450

July 28 – Session 11: Exhibit Installation!

- **Assignment #6 – Exhibit Installation and Thank You Notes due**

No readings for this week!