

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

A 6741 Architectural Finishes in America

Instructor: Mary Jablonski

Email: mjablonski@jbconservation.com

Cellular Phone: 917-572-3596

Course Syllabus Spring Semester 2017

The class is held from 6pm to 8pm on Wednesday evenings. Two sessions will involve travel time to sites for investigative and conservation work. The remaining sessions will be held in the Conservation Laboratory in the Schermerhorn extension.

Class 1: Introduction to American Finishes

An overview of the course work will be presented along with the requirements and expectations. This class will examine the constituents of paint and the use of these materials. The class will also make two of the earliest types of paint by hand to examine some of the characteristics of these types of paint.

Class to be held in the Conservation Laboratory.

Assignment 1 is given out.

Class 2: Twentieth Century Finishes and Architectural Paint Research

A lecture will be presented on twentieth century finishes. In addition, there will be an examination of contemporary finish trade materials and a discussion of various investigative techniques and research methods. The class will also include a synopsis on paint color investigations and how they are performed.

Class to be held in the Conservation Laboratory.

Class 3: Conserving Architectural Finishes

The class will meet at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum to examine the philosophy for conserving this museum and its finishes. We will look at various techniques used to conserve finishes and some of the testing that was done to develop a conservation program. We will be undertaking some treatments as part of this class so please come dressed appropriately. The class will meet at 6pm regular class time at the site. Also, the class must be on time as we will be locked in and circulating in the museum.

Assignment 1 is due

Assignment 2 is given

Friday Site Visit: Class Project

Investigation of hidden decorative finishes in a Victorian Townhouse Parlor. This will be a Friday site visit to a Greenwich Village Townhouse.

Class 4: Decorative Finishes and Wallpaper

Decorative finishes were an integral part of American homes, public buildings and how American's perceived their built environment. While some of these finishes are understood in their primitive form, much information about decoration has been lost. This class will look at types of decorative finishes and how to look for them in historic buildings. We will also look at wallpaper which is an ephemeral finish and is often found in fragments or badly damaged. How to investigate and date wallpaper along with conservation issues regarding this paper will be discussed.

Class will meet in the Conservation Laboratory

Class 5: Conservation Problem – Laboratory Work on the Conservation Problem

Class will meet in the Conservation Laboratory

Class 6: Plaster, Plaster Board and Stucco

The class will cover some of the plaster based wall finishes that are common to many American buildings. These are the finishes you will find at our conservation problem site and will need to discuss in your report. In addition to discussing the composition of these finishes, the types of deterioration and conservation techniques will be examined.

Class will meet in the Conservation Laboratory.

Class 7: The Report

We will be working in the laboratory to complete any testing we still need to accomplish and producing a report describing the work we have done, how we have done our documentation, and our recommendations. Writing a good documentation report is important as it may be the only document that remains.

Course Assignments

Grading is based upon course assignments. In addition, it is important that all course work be handed in on a timely basis. If assignments are handed in late, they will be reduced a grade for each week the assignment is late.

Four Assignments will be given in this class.

Assignment 1: Produce a bibliography on an assigned topic and a short history of a technology. Primary sources only are to be used.

Assignment 2: Paint Investigation Report on our Findings at the Townhouse.

Office Hours:

There are no scheduled office hours, but the instructor will meet with students at their request.

Method of Evaluation

Grading for the Class:

Attendance is 15% of your grade.

Participation is 15% of your grade.

Course Assignments are 70% of your grade.