

## Course Description

**A6712 I Architectural Finishes I 3 Pts**

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## **Course Syllabus Spring Semester 2015**

The class is held from 9am to 11am on Wednesday. Several sessions will involve travel time to sites for investigative and conservation work. The remaining sessions will be held in the Conservation Laboratory in Schermerhorn.

### **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 .*

### **Class 2: Early American Finishes**

This class will be a lecture on American Finishes from the Colonial period through the First World War. 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: Twentieth Century Finishes**

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.

*Class to be held in the Conservation Laboratory.*

### **Class 4: 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. The class will meet at 8:30 as we must be out of the museum by 10am. 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

### **Class 5: Decorative Finishes**

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.

*Class will meet in the Conservation Laboratory*

### **Class 6: Wallpaper - Investigation and Examination**

Wallpaper 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 thin finish will be discussed.

*Class will meet in the Conservation Laboratory.*

### **Class 7: Plaster, Plaster Board and Stucco**

This class will cover some of the plaster based wall finishes that are common to many American buildings. 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.*

Assignment 2 due.

### **Class 8: Conservation Problem – Conditions Assessment of a Room and Sample Removal.**

*Class will meet at the John Coltrane House in Dix Hills*

Assignment 3 given. The Conditions Assessment

**Class 9: Laboratory Work**

Samples removed from the Coltrane House will be examined and prepared for examination.

*Class will meet in the Conservation Laboratory.*

**Class 10: Spring Break**

**Class 11: Site Visit to Coltrane House**

**Class 12: Laboratory Work**

**Lecture on Tile, Linoleum and Glass**

*Class will meet in the Conservation Laboratory.*

**Class 13: Lecture on Plastics**

**Finishing up Final Reports and any additional laboratory work**

*Class will meet in the Conservation Laboratory.*

**Class 14: Presentation to Coltrane House Representatives**

*Class will meet in the Conservation Laboratory.*

**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:** Perform a basic Paint Color Investigation with samples in the laboratory. The purpose of this exercise is to start everyone learning to use the microscope to do cross-sectional analysis. Our project will involve this type of study as one component.

**Assignment 3 :** Conditions Assessment and Finishes Investigation Report for Individual Rooms.

John Coltrane House, Dix Hills, NY

**Assignment 4:** Recommendations Report and Presentation to Coltrane House Representatives.

**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.