



SAN GEMINI PRESERVATION STUDIES

**(WVU) Syllabus for ARHS 452:
Professional Field Experience,
Introduction to the Preservation and Preventive Conservation of Books***
3 credit hours
(SGPS) SG 204B - 3Units

Summer Semester, 2024

Session 1: Second two weeks (June 17– June 28)

Meets Monday-Friday 8:30-11:30 in archives; 12:00-1:00 lecture; 2:00-6:00 afternoon workshop

Location: Piazza San Giovanni Battista 8, Centro Giovanile class room, San Gemini, Italy

Instructor: Professor Dr. Francesco Maria Rizzo

Email: exlibrisrestauro@gmail.com

Office hours: on site TBA

Note: this is a course that can only be completed in San Gemini, Italy and not on the WVU campus or online. There are flight, meal, and program costs related to the course. Please go to the WVU Education Abroad website for current cost information.

<https://educationabroad.wvu.edu/>

***Must be taken with the following co-requisite:**

ARHS 451: Professional Field Experience:

Introduction to the History and Craft of Book Bindings

No prerequisites required

Catalog Description

Theoretical overview of libraries and archives collection care, preventive conservation and book and archival material conservation with practical experience in non-invasive preventive conservation. Covers historical intrusive restoration compared to modern conservation treatments. Students assess and document structures, historical materials and conservation conditions of original items, through forms, photographs, drawings and implement non-intrusive conservative measures on original material in an archive.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Identify and describe historical structures and materials
- Identify and describe the deterioration process of books and documents and contributing factors
- Prepare conservation assessment documentation records, including photographs and drawings
- Digitally photograph archival documents
- Evaluate suitability of storage areas, including building and furniture characteristics
- Perform surface dry cleaning of historical books and archival documents

- Make archivally safe storage containers and protections

Recommended Readings:

Compendium of articles on preventive conservation and building physics applied to historic materials and structures, by Tim Padfield:

<http://www.padfield.org/tim/cfys/>

in particular:

- How to keep for a while what you want to keep for ever
- In and out air strategies. From climate change to microclimate. Library, archives and museum preservation issues.

British Library free PDF guides on a range of conservation issues. These PDFs provide guidance on topics such as basic preservation techniques and environmental management. They also cover caring for books, photographs and bookbindings.

<https://www.bl.uk/conservation/guides>

Description of Assignments

- Term paper: 2- page paper on a topic to be assigned
- Final exam: mixed format – quiz and essay questions
- Assess Archive needs and make archivally-safe storage containers (boxes, folders)

Grade Breakdown:

Archive Analysis Paper 20%

- Your paper will be evaluated on content, organization, and clarity.

Final Exam 35%

Archival assessments & storage-making 45%

Includes: performing a conservation assessment, filling an assessment form, taking photographs and making drawings of every item, dry cleaning objects, creating archival containers or other forms of physical protection

What is important for this course is that every item is correctly assessed, this includes filling the assessment form in the appropriate way, clearly marking the shelf mark of the book/document on the form; making the drawing of the inside of the boards (if present), again clearly marking the shelf mark of the item on the drawing; making the eight basic photographs required, correctly marking each of them with the relevant label provided; upload every photo on the Course Google drive.

Grading scale:

- 94-100 = A
- 90-93 = A-
- 87-89 = B+
- 84-86 = B
- 80-83 = B-
- 77-79 = C+
- 74-76 = C
- 70-73 = C-
- 67-69 = D+
- 64-66 = D
- 60-63 = D-

Below 60 = F

Late Assignment Policies

Projects may be completed in any order as there is no individual deadline, but ALL work must be completed by the final day of class in San Gemini, Italy. The workshop lab is dismantled the following day after the program ends and students will not have access to materials or lab space. No work is accepted after the last day of class

Course Schedule:

Date	Day	Lecture 8:30-11:30; 12:00-1:00 Mon-Fri.	Afternoon Workshop 2:00-6:00
6/20	Mon	<p>Preliminary test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Book History and archaeology • Birth and development of book structures <p>Conservation and preservation: theory and practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different approaches in conservation and importance of collection care 	<p>AFTERNOON WORKSHOP: Assessment Examination and documentation Different conservation assessment forms, photo documentation, drawings</p>
6/21	Tues	<p>Materials manufacture and degradation processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deterioration classification, mechanisms and treatments • Paper history and technology 	<p>AFTERNOON WORKSHOP: Damaging processes and potential sources. Impact of the environment</p> <p>Paper degradation and conservation</p>
6/22	Wed	<p>Mitigation strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling • Assessment of the storage area • Assessment of original items in the Archive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • survey form • drawings • photographs 	<p>AFTERNOON WORKSHOP: Box making</p>
6/23	Thurs	Assessment of original items in the Archive	Box making
6/24	Fri	Assessment of original items in the Archive	Box making
6/25	Sat	No class	
6/26	Sun	No class	

6/27	Mon	Assessment of original items in the Archive	Box making
6/28	Tue	Assessment of original items in the Archive	Box making
6/29	Wed	Assessment of original items in the Archive	Box making

6/30	Thu	Assessment of original items in the Archive	Box making
7/1	Fri	Final test and discussion	Discussion and feedback

For all WVU Academic Policies and Syllabus Statements Please go to:

<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements>