ArtHist 393/ PHYS 380: Special Topic–Investigating Art with Physics  
Spring 2012  Thursdays, 1-4pm  
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Office Hours:  TBD and by appointment  

Description: Questions of material choice, working method, authenticity, provenance, and restoration are each addressed through the scientific investigation of art. This course will introduce students to a selection of physical techniques used to analyze artwork. Lecture and discussion will consider historical uses of materials in the production of art, as well as the circumstances motivating the scientific investigation of specific objects. Case studies from the Carlos Museum collection will provide context for these discussions. Through presentations, hands-on workshops, and practical lab experiments students will explore art materials and analytical techniques, including beta and x-ray radiography, infrared reflectography, neutron activation analysis, terahertz spectroscopy, and ultraviolet fluorescence. Prior coursework in physics, visual arts, or art history is not required.  

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation in lectures, discussions, labs, and workshops are required. Students are responsible for completing missed assignments and obtaining readings or notes from classmates.  

Reading Assignments: All reading assignments are required and should be completed prior to the class session for which they are assigned. There is no course text; readings will instead be drawn from a wide variety of sources and are available on Reserves Direct. Students will rotate as discusant for selected reading assignments.  

Written Assignments: Periodic written assignments (approximately 3) may include brief article summaries, short-answer questions, or problem sets. Assignments should be typed and all will be collected.  

Exam: There will be two scheduled in-class exams (approximately 1 hour each). These exams will be short-answer and short-essay format.  

Evaluation: Course credit is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the following requirements, factored at the percentages indicated.  
- Attendance and Participation (40%)  
- Written Assignments (30%)  
- Exams (30%)  
A (100-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77), C (76-73), C- (72-70)