

## **ARH 1021: COLONIAL AMERICAN ART AND LIFE**

Gillian Greenhill Hannum

Fall 2006

### **ORGANIZATION OF COURSE**

This class will meet Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00 to 9:15 a.m. Class time will include both lecture and discussion.

### **CONTENT**

We will investigate painting, architecture, sculpture and the decorative arts in America from the time of the earliest European settlers through the Revolutionary War. Native American influences will also be examined. Works of art will be placed within the context of historical events and social development.

### **EXAMS**

There will be two exams, each covering half the course. Exams will include slide identification of works shown in class, slide comparisons, matching of assigned terms and names and essay questions. A small number of "unknown" slides will be included (5) to test students' abilities in identifying major artists and styles.

**ABSENCE FROM AN EXAM WILL ONLY BE EXCUSED BY A NOTE FROM THE ACADEMIC ADVISING OFFICE OR HEALTH CENTER.**

### **PAPERS**

Two short papers are required for the course, each 5 to 6 pages long (double spaced):

Paper #1--Select a work of art (painting, building, sculpture or decorative object) from the Colonial period. This should be a work you can see in person. There are fine examples in the Metropolitan Museum, Brooklyn Museum, New-York Historical Society and Yale University Art Gallery. Architectural sites can be found in New York City, Westchester and Fairfield Counties. Spend time with your work. Observe it closely, then write a short, critical paper discussing it. Do not do library research. This is a looking paper. Be sure to include a full identification of your work (artist, title, date, location, medium, etc.), a detailed description of it, an analysis of the style of the work and your own reactions to it. Use only material available to you at the site (museum labels, etc.). For help in writing this sort of analytic paper, refer to examples in Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing About Art* (on library reserve).

Paper #2--Continuing with the same work, do some research. Try to place your work within the development of the artist, style or times. This paper needs to have at least five sources other than the course texts and should include proper citation of sources and a bibliography. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and it is incumbent upon students to correctly document all of their source material.

### **READINGS**

The texts for this course are Hugh Morrison's *Early American Architecture* (any edition) and James Flexner's *History of American Painting, Volume One: First Flowers of our*

*Wilderness*. Other useful books are on reserve in the library (see attached list); use them for paper #2.

### **GRADES**

Your course grade will be determined by averaging five elements: midterm exam, final exam, paper #1, paper #2 and class attendance/participation. *Three (3) or more unexcused absences will lower your grade.*

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Mondays and Thursdays from 10:45 to noon and 1:30 – 2:30 pm, and Wednesdays from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. Appointments at other times can be made by calling (914) 323-5456 (office); 949-8173 (home) or by e-mailing hannumg@mville.edu

### **INFORMATION TO BE LEARNED FOR REQUIRED SLIDES**

Name of artist (or Anonymous if unknown)

Title of work

Location where work was produced (New England, Virginia, New Mexico, etc.)

Date of work (decade okay)

## SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

- 8/28 Introduction (including Vincent Scully video) (Morrison, ch. 1)
- 8/31 Explorer artists (Flexner, ch. 1)
- 9/7 17th c. architects in Virginia (Morrison, ch. 5)
- 9/11 17th c. architects in New England (Morrison, ch. 2 & 3)
- 9/14 Spanish colonial architecture, Florida and New Mexico (Morrison, ch. 6)
- 9/18 Spanish colonial architecture, Texas, Arizona & California (Morrison, ch. 7)
- 9/21 French and Dutch colonial architecture (Morrison, ch. 4 & 6)
- 9/25 Decorative arts in the 17th century
- 9/28 17th c. painting in New England (Flexner, ch. 1)
- 10/2 17th c. painting in New England (Flexner, ch. 2); **FINALIZE PAPER TOPICS**
- 10/5 Patroon painters (Flexner, ch. 3)
- 10/10 Review [**NB: This is a Tuesday**]
- 10/12 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- 10/16 Wren Baroque in the South (Morrison, ch. 9, 10 & 11)
- 10/19 Wren Baroque in the North (Morrison, ch. 14)
- 10/23 High Georgian in the South (Morrison, ch. 12 & 13)
- 10/26 High Georgian in New England and Pennsylvania (Morrison, ch. 16)
- 10/30 18th c. furniture; **PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS**
- 11/2 Johnson, Kuhn, Hesselius and Theus (Flexner, ch. 4)
- 11/6 Smibert (Flexner, ch. 5)
- 11/9 Feke (Flexner, ch. 6)
- 11/13 Non-portrait painting (Flexner, ch. 7)
- 11/16 Williams and West (Flexner, ch. 8)
- 11/20 Copley (Flexner, ch. 9 & 10)
- 11/27 The Peale's (Flexner, ch. 11)
- 11/30 Gilbert Stuart; **PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS**
- 12/4 Federal style architecture (Morrison, ch. 17)
- 12/7 Review
- 12/11 **FINAL EXAM**
- 12/14 Return and go over Final Exams

## RESERVE LIST

- Craven, Wayne. *Colonial American Portraiture*. N7593.1 .C73 1986
- Flexner, James. *America's Old Masters*. ND207 .F55
- Flexner, James. *History of American Painting: First Flowers....* ND207 .F57
- Flexner, James. *The Light of Distant Skies*. ND207 .F58
- Halsey, Richard. *The Homes of our Ancestors*. N611 .A6 H3 1925a
- Howells, John. *Lost Examples of Colonial Architecture*. NA707 .H75 1963
- Isham, Norman. *Early American Houses*. NA 7206 .I7 1967
- McCoubrey, John. *Sources and Documents series*. N6505 .M26 165
- Morrison, Hugh. *Early American Architecture*. NA707 .M63
- Pierson, Wm. *American Buildings and their Architects, vol. 1*. NA705 .P5
- Waterman, Thomas. *The Dwellings of Colonial America*. NA707 .W42
- Wright, Louis. *The Atlantic Frontier*. E188 .W8
- Wright, Louis. *The Arts in America: Colonial Period*. N6507 .A7
- Wright, Louis. *The Cultural Life of the American Colonies*. E162 .W89
- Wright, Louis. *The Dream of Prosperity in Colonial America*. E188 .W84
- Wright, Louis. *The First Gentlemen of Virginia*. F229 .W965
- Wright, Louis. *New Interpretations of American Colonial History*. Z1237 .W7 1963

## **A NOTE ABOUT TEXTBOOKS**

James Flexner's *History of American Painting, Volume One* is out of print, as are most texts dealing with just the Colonial period. Used copies can be purchased relatively inexpensively on Amazon.com. The book is on reserve in our library and is also on the shelves of many public libraries. However, if you do not purchase a copy on-line, be sure to allow enough time to do the reading in the library.