ART HISTORY 501-302: CURATORIAL SEMINAR
SYLLABUS

Classes will meet in the Department of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art unless otherwise indicated

September 13: Distribution and discussion of assignments (gallery labels, catalogue entries, and acquisition proposals). Introduction to the physical properties of drawings [tour of “Poussin to Cézanne” exhibition].

September 20: Meeting in paper conservation lab with Nancy Ash, Senior Conservator of Works of Art on Paper, Philadelphia Museum of Art for introduction to the materials and techniques of drawings.

September 27: Carter Foster, Curator of Drawings, Whitney Museum of American Art, will discuss his varied experiences as curator of drawings at the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Whitney. First drafts of gallery labels due.

October 4: Visit collection of Dr. Charles K. Williams II. Class should gather promptly at 2:00 pm at 1820 Rittenhouse Square so that we can go up to the apartment as a group.

October 11: Discussion of organizing “top matter” in cataloguing drawings. First drafts of catalogue entries due, including footnotes.

October 25 and November 8: Individual appointments to review first drafts of catalogue entries and identify mediums, supports, and watermarks with conservators.

November 15: Trip to New York. 11 am visit to W.M. Brady & Co., Inc., 22 East 80th Street and 2 pm visit with Carmen Bambach, Curator, Department of Drawings and Prints, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

November 22: Alice Beamesderfer, Associate Director for Collections and Project Support, Philadelphia Museum of Art: discussion of curatorial practices, ethics, and responsibilities

November 29 and December 6 (last two class meetings): Student presentations of proposals for acquisition.

December 13: Final drafts of label copy, catalogue entries including top matter, and write-ups of acquisition proposals due.