

COURSE DETAILS – WEEKEND WE0147

TITLE: TAKING CARE OF YOUR FURNITURE

TUTOR: MIKE PODMANICZKY

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

AIMS OF COURSE:

Caring for old, or even not-so-old furniture, is a relatively straightforward matter once the objects and the materials they are made of are better understood. The course tutor will demonstrate how to analyse and mentally “deconstruct” furniture, fabrication methods and materials so as to establish a foundation of understanding that leads to proper home care and minor repair.

This will be presented in the context of professional decorative arts conservation protocols and standards of practice. The various “values”, financial, spiritual, familial, aesthetic, etc., we place on our cherished furniture will be discussed and developed as integral to the connoisseurship process.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE:

Students will develop both a methodology and a vocabulary for analysing furniture that will in turn be applied to the treatment of objects they bring to the course. They will apply techniques and materials toward cleaning, consolidating and strengthening these objects. Minor repairs can also be carried out

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES COVERED:

Materials will be introduced and discussed that are used for cleaning and improving the appearance of old finishes (not including refinishing.) Commonly used finishes, adhesives and consolidants will be discussed in light of their capabilities, effectiveness and compatibility with surrounding materials. Common solvents will be presented and discussion will include elemental chemical properties, compatibility with other materials and health and safety implications.

TEACHING METHOD:

The tutor will lead discussions of furniture style and fabrication, conservation methods and materials and the ways conservators care for furniture, both in the home and the museum.

There will be group discussion about each piece of furniture that has been brought to the class and consensus arrived at regarding the approach to care and treatment. Each student will have the opportunity for one-on-one discussion with the tutor about their object and their approach to treatment.

EVENING SESSIONS:

First evening session – attendance is an essential part of the course: This session will be in the workshop. Following introductions, the tutor will lead a group discussion about the furniture brought in by students will begin.

Other optional evening activities: Students may work on untutored in the workshop until 10pm on the second evening. Providing health and safety guidance is adhered to and intended work is agreed with the tutor.

GENERAL TIMETABLE:

See overleaf

STUDENT PREPARATION FOR COURSE IF ANY:

Select and bring up to two pieces of your furniture to work on during the weekend.

In addition bring any special fittings, if required.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ON PRACTICAL COURSES YOU MAY WELL NEED TO PURCHASE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE TO COMPLETE PROJECTS

ADDITIONAL CHARGE:

Some additional materials used on this course are supplied by the College Shop for the use of the group, and the cost of these will be divided amongst the members of the course. This will not be more than £10 per student and should be paid to the Shop at the end of the course, in addition to any materials that students may have purchased individually.

The shop stocks many of the items required for this course, if not supplied in the additional charge.

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

One or two items of furniture to work on, plus any special fitments

Protective clothing, such as an apron and rubber gloves

Sturdy covered shoes are essential in the workshop

An old blanket to protect work pieces

Old cotton rags

Any materials you consider useful in caring for your furniture which you already have. Do not buy especially for the course. e.g. waxes, cleaners, polishers, colorants, paint boxes, wire wool 0000 grade etc.

COURSE TIMETABLE (unless otherwise stated above or agreed with the tutor during the course)

Course timetable for 2–9 day courses – each course starts with a welcome session on the first evening of the start date of the course and is followed by 2–9 days depending on the length of the course.

Arrival Day	From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15–9.15	First teaching session.
Daily Timetable	9.15am	Morning classes.
	10.30	Coffee.
	12.45pm	Lunch.
	2.00pm	Afternoon classes.
	3.30	Tea.
	5.00	Classes finish.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15	Evening working – students may have evening access to certain workshops in the absence of their tutor, but only with their tutor's permission and provided it is safe to do so.
Departure – last day	10.00am	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms.
	3.00pm	Classes finish.
	3.30	Tea then departure.