



Adjunct Professor of Art History  
MALS Program  
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**Dr. Sylvia Leistyna Lahvis** received her BA degree cum laude (Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of Rochester and her MA degree in Art History from Oberlin College. In 1982 she received a fellowship to study early American Sculpture with Wayne Craven at the University of Delaware and took courses in the Advanced Studies Department at Winterthur Museum. She received her Ph.D. in American Art, Architecture, and Decorative Arts in 1990 and has been teaching for the MALS program since 1992. She has published in *Winterthur Portfolio*, *Antiques Magazine*, and *American National Biography* and has been preparing a book on early American sculpture. Dr. Lahvis has also been a curator at the Yale University Art Gallery, the New Milford Connecticut Historical Society, and the Biggs Museum of American Art.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

##### **MALS 617: Reading History Through Architecture**

The architecture of the United States, both public and private, reveals in a very tangible way, its rich social history from the Colonial period to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This course will examine how social, political, and economic structures are embodied in style, design, proportion, interior plans, and spatial locations. Such topics as the search for an American identity, patronage and politics, urban development, and comfort and technology will be discussed. The course will include a field trip to Baltimore and a study of a small town in Delaware.

##### **MALS 617: Modernism in America**

This course focuses on the rise and fall of modernism in the United States from its nineteenth and early twentieth-century roots in Europe to its triumph in New York in the nineteen fifties. Students will examine the political, economic, and cultural forces that catapulted American art and architecture to world prominence at this time.

##### **MALS 667: Art Treasures in the Delaware Valley**