

# CX901-30 Approaching Ancient Visual and Material Culture

**23/24**

**Department**

Classics & Ancient History

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Zahra Newby

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

---

## Description

### Introductory description

This is the core module for the new taught MA in Ancient Visual and Material Culture. It is designed to introduce students to the major issues in the study of ancient visual and material culture, and to key methodologies and approaches. This module provides a broad grounding in the interpretation of the various different aspects of ancient material culture, which can then be pursued further in the individual option modules.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

A main aim of this module is to fulfil the MA's overall aim to develop students' critical and conceptual understanding of the methodological issues relating to the study of the ancient world and the ways that they can employ or respond to these in their own research.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be

covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

This module runs in Term 1, for 10 weeks. Sample syllabus (with small changes year-to-year)  
Week 1, Induction Week 2 Approaching Ancient Art 1 Week 3, Approaching Ancient Art 2 Week 4  
Ancient Epigraphy, induction to resources Week 5 Renaissance Medals Week 6: Seminar at the  
British Museum Week 7: The Lives of Objects Week 8, Public Museums in Britain Week 9:  
Exploring Greek Vases Week 10: Essay presentations

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Appreciation of methodological issues in dealing with material evidence
- Understanding of the ways that visual and material evidence has been studied since Antiquity

## **Indicative reading list**

(in order of seminars)

F. Haskell and N. Penny, *Taste and the Antique*

A. E. Cooley ed., *The Afterlife of Inscriptions*

P. Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*

A. Wallace-Hadrill, review of Zanker, in *JRS* 79 (1989), 157-64.

J. Elsner, 'Cult and Sacrifice in the Ara Pacis' *JRS* 81 (1991) 50-61

D Irwin ed., *Winckelmann. Writings on Art* (London, 1972)

A. Potts, *Flesh and the ideal: Winckelmann and the origins of art history* (1994)

M. Beard, 'Adopting an approach II' in T. Rasmussen & N. Spivey eds., *Looking at Greek Vases* (Cambridge, 1991) 12-35

A. A. Donohue and M. D. Fullerton, *Ancient Art and Its Historiography* (Cambridge, 2003)

W. V. Harris, *Ancient Literacy* (1989)

J. H. Humphrey ed., *Literacy in the Roman World* (Ann Arbor, 1991)

A. K. Bowman & G.D. Woolf, *Literacy and power in the ancient world* (Cambridge, 1994)

G. Woolf, 'Literacy' in *CAH XI* (2000)

G. Woolf, 'Monumental writing and the expansion of Roman society in the early empire', *JRS* 86 (1996) 22-39

E. Meyer, E. Explaining the Epigraphic Habit in the Roman Empire: The Evidence of Epitaphs," *JRS* 80 (1990) 74-96

R. Macmullen, (1982) 'The epigraphic habit in the Roman empire' *AJPhil* 103 (1982), 233-46.

Carradice I, & Price M.J., *Coinage in the Greek World*, (London, 1988).

Burnett A., *Coinage in the Roman World* (London, 1988).

## **Subject specific skills**

### **Cognitive Skills**

- Ability to present structured chain of argument drawing together evidence into cohesive whole
- Ability to select & apply appropriate problem-solving methodologies

- Ability to conduct independent research & analysis

#### Subject-Specific Skills

- Ability to select and respond to particular methodological approaches when dealing with material evidence

### Transferable skills

#### Key skills

- Written communication skills
  - Oral communication skills
  - Organisational skills
  - Ability to evaluate intellectual progress
  - IT skills - word processing/ use of internet
- 

## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (6%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 30 minutes (0%)
External visits	1 session of 2 hours (1%)
Private study	279 hours (93%)
Total	300 hours

### Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

---

## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A1

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>
Assessed Essay A 5000-word essay.	100%	

## **Feedback on assessment**

Informal feedback on presentations, meeting to discuss assessed work.

---

## **Availability**

## **Courses**

This module is Core for:

- TCXA-V301 MA in Ancient Visual and Material Culture
  - Year 1 of V301 Ancient Visual and Material Culture
  - Year 1 of V301 Ancient Visual and Material Culture
- TCXA-V303 MA in Visual and Material Culture of Ancient Greece
  - Year 1 of V303 Visual and Material Culture of Ancient Greece
  - Year 1 of V303 Visual and Material Culture of Ancient Greece
- TCXA-V302 MA in Visual and Material Culture of Ancient Rome
  - Year 1 of V302 Visual and Material Culture of Ancient Rome
  - Year 1 of V302 Visual and Material Culture of Ancient Rome