

CX903-30 The Art of the Ancient World

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

The module is an option in the new taught MA in Ancient Visual and Material Culture, complementing other modules concentrating upon epigraphy and numismatics. It will allow students to explore different approaches to the visual imagery of the ancient world and to relate this material to their research interests.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module will introduce students to the many different forms taken by art in the ancient world and the ways that this material can be approached and used in the study of wider historical issues. It will help to fulfil the MA's aim to develop a wide-ranging and detailed knowledge of the visual culture of the ancient world as well as to develop students' critical and conceptual understanding of the methodological issues relating to its study.

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.

Week 1 - What is ancient art and how can we study it?
Week 2 - Approaching the Divine
Week 3 - Funerary Art and Self-representation
Week 4 - Art and Narrative
Week 5 - Art & Class
Week 6 - Art and Regional Identity
Week 7 - Art and Propaganda.
Week 8 - Cross-cultural influences in Art
Week 9 - Ancient Ceramics
Week 10 - Essay presentations

(NB these will be spread over 2 terms, meeting fortnightly).

Learning outcomes

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

- Appreciation of methodological issues in dealing with visual evidence
- Understanding of the ways that the visual arts have been studied since Antiquity

Indicative reading list

Brilliant, R., *Visual Narratives* (Ithaca and London, 1984)
Castriota, D., *Myth, Ethos and Actuality* (Madison, 1992)
Davies, P. J., *Death and the Emperor* (Cambridge, 2000)
Donohue, A. A. and M. D. Fullerton, *Ancient Art and Its Historiography* (Cambridge, 2003)
Elsner, J. ed., *Art and Text in Roman Culture* (Cambridge, 1996)
Elsner, J., 'Image and Ritual: Reflections on the Religious Appreciation of Classical Art', *CQ* 46 (1996), 515-531.
Elsner, J., *Art and the Roman Viewer* (Cambridge, 1995)
Goldhill, S, and Osborne, R. eds, *Art and Text in Greek Culture* (Cambridge, 1994)
Holliday, P. J. ed., *Narrative and Event in Ancient Art* (Cambridge, 1993)
Hurwit, J. M., *The Art and culture of Early Greece* (Ithaca and London, 1985)
Ridgway B. S., *Roman Copies of Greek Sculpture* (Ann Arbor, 1984)
Spivey, N., *Understanding Greek Sculpture* (London, 1996)
Steiner, D., *Images in Mind* (Princeton, 2001)
Stewart, A., *Faces of Power* (Berkeley, 1003)
Stewart, A., *Greek Sculpture, An Exploration* (New Haven, 1990)
Stewart, P., *Statues in Roman Society* (Oxford, 2003)
Zanker, P., *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*

Subject specific skills

- Skills of visual analysis including ability to recognise and interpret different iconographies and to analyse different artistic styles
- Awareness of the constraints and possibilities of different artistic methods and media
- Appreciation of methodological issues in dealing with visual evidence
- Understanding of the ways that visual and material evidence has been studied since

Antiquity

- 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

Transferable skills

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

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (6%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 30 minutes (0%)
Private study	281 hours (94%)
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.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
Assessed Essay	100%	

Weighting

Study time

A 5,000-word essay.

Feedback on assessment

Informal feedback on presentations, meeting to discuss assessed work.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of TCXA-Q830 Postgraduate Taught Ancient Literature and Thought

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TCXA-V301 MA in Ancient Visual and Material Culture
- Year 1 of TCXA-V302 MA in Visual and Material Culture of Ancient Rome
- Year 1 of TRSA-V1PF Postgraduate Taught Culture of the European Renaissance

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of TCXA-V301 MA in Ancient Visual and Material Culture
- Year 1 of TCXA-Q830 Postgraduate Taught Ancient Literature and Thought

This module is Option list B for:

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