

CX111-15 Encounters with Material Culture: Objects and Archaeology

24/25

Department

Classics & Ancient History

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Conor Trainor

Credit value

15

Module duration

12 weeks

Assessment

50% coursework, 50% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module will provide students with the tools required to approach and interpret the material culture of the ancient world, and to understand the different questions which can be asked of this material. It will look at how we approach and define ancient material culture, including the study of buildings, art-works, inscriptions and everyday objects. We will consider issues such as material, production and consumption, style, form and iconography, contexts of discovery and use, as well as the ways objects communicate and change over their lifetimes. The module will also act as a taster for the exploration of some of these aspects in more detail in our Honours-level modules.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module aims to introduce students to some of the main areas relevant to the study of material culture from the ancient world. Students will learn how to describe objects, thinking about aspects such as production, material, style and iconography. They will also learn how to interpret drawings and reconstructions, as well as exploring some of the different roles objects play in different contexts. Assessment methods will develop skills in presenting and describing ancient objects, as

well as communicating their significance to different audiences.

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.

- 1: Introduction and the Art of Making
- 2: The Marble Trade in Antiquity
- 3: Understanding Ancient Architecture
- 4: Art 1: Style
- 5: Art 2: Iconography
- 7: Art 3: Contexts: Discovery and Use
- 8: Objects and Communication
- 9: Inscriptions
- 10: Destruction and reconstruction

There will also be three seminars, developing specific skills of analysis.

Learning outcomes

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

- Describe ancient objects, considering aspects such as material, form, style and iconography
- Understand catalogues, drawings and plans of ancient material culture
- Set ancient objects into different contexts, thinking about how they communicate different messages.
- Communicate the significance of material culture for our understanding of the ancient world

Indicative reading list

ALCOCK S.E. & OSBORNE R. (ed.), *Classical Archaeology*, 2007.

Whitley, J. 2001. *The Archaeology of Ancient Greece*. Cambridge

Renfrew, C. and P. Bahn. 2017. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. Thames and Hudson (7th edition)

GREENE K., Moore, Th., *Archaeology. An Introduction*, 2010 (fifth edition; 1983, first edition by Greene, K.).

HODDER I., *Reading the Past, Current Approaches to Interpretation in Archaeology*, 1986/93.

M. Stansbury O'Donnell, *Looking at Greek Art*, 2011.

R. Neer, *Art and Archaeology of the Greek World*. 2019

S. Tuck *A history of Roman Art*, 2015.

Elsner, *Art and the Roman Viewer*

Newby-Leader Newby, *Art and Inscriptions in the Ancient World*

Elsner *Imperial Rome & Christian Triumph*

Cooley *Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*

Nevett *Domestic Space*

Stewart *Social History of Roman Art*

Henig, *Handbook of Roman Art*

Renfrew & Bahn, *Archaeology Theories, Methods & Practice*

Dodge H and Ward-Perkins B (eds.) 1992 Marble in Antiquity. Collected Papers of J B Ward-Perkins, London.

Hirt F 2010 Imperial Mines and Quarries in the Roman World: Organizational Aspects, Oxford.

Russell B 2013 The Economics of the Roman Stone Trade, Oxford.

Subject specific skills

By the end of the module students will be able to demonstrate the ability to :

Describe ancient objects, considering aspects such as material, form, style and iconography,

Understand catalogues, drawings and plans of ancient material culture,

Set ancient objects into different contexts, thinking about how they communicate different messages,

Communicate the significance of material culture for our understanding of the ancient world

Transferable skills

- critical thinking
- problem solving
- active lifelong learning
- communication
- information literacy
- ICT literacy
- Citizenship

Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)	
Seminars	3 sessions of 1 hour (2%)	
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)	
Demonstrations	1 session of 2 hours (1%)	
Practical classes	(0%)	20 sessions of 1 hour
External visits	1 session of 2 hours (1%)	
Private study	63 hours (42%)	
Assessment	60 hours (40%)	
Total	150 hours	

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Field trips, placements and study abroad	museum trip travel	Student	£30.00

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group C

	Weighting	Study time
Attendance log % of recorded attendance, across both lectures & seminars	10%	10 hours
poster presentation poster showing how objects can be used to study a specific aspect of the ancient world. Poster content work 75%, oral presentation 25% (ie 30/10% of overall assessment).	40%	20 hours
Examination - Summer students will need to identify and comment on three images showing examples of material culture.	50%	30 hours

- Answerbook Green (8 page)

Feedback on assessment

Individual tutorials, Tabula feedback marking sheets

[Past exam papers for CX111](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of UCXA-VV16 Undergraduate Ancient History and Classical Archaeology
- Year 1 of UCXA-VV18 Undergraduate Ancient History and Classical Archaeology with Study

in Europe

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of UCXA-Q82P Undergraduate Classical Civilisation

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UCXA-Q820 Undergraduate Classical Civilisation
- Year 1 of UCXA-Q821 Undergraduate Classical Civilisation with Study in Europe
- Year 1 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 1 of UCXA-Q800 BA in Classics
- Year 1 of UCXA-Q802 Undergraduate Classics (Latin) with Study in Europe

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 1 of UITA-RQ38 Undergraduate Italian and Classics

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 1 of UCXA-QQ39 Undergraduate English and Classical Civilisation