

Curating classical antiquity

Start date	25 th November 2016	End date	27 th November 2016
Venue	Madingley Hall and Madingley Cambridge	Course code	The Fitzwilliam Museum Trumpington street, Cambridge CB2 1RB (Sunday sessions only)
Tutor	Dr A. Christofilopoulou		

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Anastasia Christofilopoulou is a Classical Archaeologist educated in Greece, France and the United Kingdom where she completed her PhD in 2008 (Cambridge, Faculty of Classics). She specialises in the field of Household Archaeology and early Greek and Cypriot Archaeology and material cultures studies. She has conducted postdoctoral research in Berlin for two years before moving to the Department of Antiquities of the Fitzwilliam Museum where she currently works as the Assistant Keeper for Greece and Rome. Anastasia has taught as a temporary lecturer in London and has been a College supervisor for Art and Archaeology in Cambridge since 2007. She has worked extensively as a research associate to archaeological projects in Greece, Cyprus and Turkey for over 10 years.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Session 1: Introduction to the Classical World and the study of Antiquity
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2: Collectors, explorers and early archaeologists: the history of the discipline
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3: Museum collections and looted antiquities: Archaeology, ethics and Museum practices.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Session 4: Interpreting Antiquities: giving the past a voice through exhibits.
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Session 5: Curating ancient Greek and Roman collections in the 21st Century.
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast and morning at leisure

09:30 – 11:30

Departure from Madingley Hall at 09:30am to arrive at the Fitzwilliam for 10:00am

Session 6: 'Reading' an object's different contexts (session carried out at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Antiquities Seminar Room, includes object handling class).

Coffee will be provided between sessions

11:30 – 12:30

Session 7: Curatorial exercise: how to display an object (session carried at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Antiquities Seminar Room and the Greece & Rome galleries).

Depart the Fitzwilliam Museum at 12:30 to return to Madingley Hall.

13:00

Lunch, after return to Madingley Hall.

Comments, remarks and general discussion on the topics covered are very welcome.

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To allow students to reflect on the practices, debates and challenges of curating Classical antiquities in our times.
- To allow students to develop a sound understanding of the ancient Mediterranean cultures (particularly the Greek and Roman cultures) and within them of key cultural events in Antiquity, through direct observation of objects and ancient contexts.
- To allow students to develop critical thinking when visiting Museum displays and to encourage them to express their own interpretations of the Ancient Greek and Roman worlds.

Content:

Classical antiquity is a broad term used by archaeologists, cultural historians and Museum curators (among other disciplines) to describe a long period of historical events and cultural transformations centred around the Mediterranean Sea, in particular the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome. Lectures in this course will provide a condensed, yet targeted narrative of key cultural events of the two interlocking cultures, as they are 'displayed' in three major national Museums, the Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge, the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford and the British Museum in London. The course will explore landmarks of Greek and Roman Antiquity (including their interactions with neighbouring cultures) through what each of these Museums is strong at, e.g. the Parthenon marbles and the Periclean Era in the British Museum, Knossos and Minoan Crete in the Ashmolean Museum, or Classical figurative pottery and sculpture in the Fitzwilliam Museum. However, the innovation of this course lies in that it will also explore questions of curatorial concern, introducing the course participants to the curators' everyday challenges of researching, displaying and interpreting their collections to the wider public. It will not only provide a 'snapshot' of the Ancient Greek and Roman world through key objects, but will further prepare course participants to look critically at Museum displays.

Presentation of the course:

The course will employ a range of teaching methods, including analysis of specific paradigms within the range of topics examined. These will include questions about the nature of the collections examined, discussion of past and current curatorial practices, as well as questions surrounding ethics in archaeology and museum practice.

The course will also include an artefact-based seminar, which will allow students to engage with the collections and their needs, as well as a handling class with objects from the Antiquities Department of the Fitzwilliam Museum.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- identify, describe and where possible date, different types of ancient objects, as well as place them in their broader cultural contexts.
- develop a good understanding of the challenges and rewards of modern curatorial practices as well as of their differences across European Museums.
- acquire basic skills of handling ancient objects as well as identifying their conservation needs, or special display requirements.
- reflect and communicate (through class participation and relevant discussion) on the importance of social sciences such as history, art history, archaeology and anthropology in order to deliver good curatorial and museum practices.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Bibliography:

General:

I. Karp, 'The Museum as a way of seeing', in *Exhibiting Cultures: the poetics and politics of museum display*, in I. Karp and S. D. Lavine eds, Washington 1991, p.11-25.

N. MacGregor, 'To shape the Citizens of "That Great City, the Word"', in J. Cuno, ed., *Whose culture? The promise of museums and the debate over antiquities*, Princeton 2009, p.39-55 and J. Boardman, *Archaeologists, Collectors and Museums*, p.107-125.

K. Rorschach., 'Scylla or Charybdis: Antiquities collecting by university Art Museums', in R. F. Rhodes ed., *The acquisition and exhibition of classical antiquities: professional, legal, and ethical perspectives*, Notre Dame, Indiana, 2007, p. 65-74.

H. Swain, *An introduction to museum archaeology*, Cambridge, 2007, p. 3-18 and 265-29.

For Museums in Greece:

N. E. Kaltsas, *The National Archaeological Museum*, Athens 2007.

For the New Acropolis Museum (short video guide):

For German Museums:

C. Bilsel, *Antiquity on display: regimes of the authentic in Berlin's Pergamon Museum*, Classical presences, Oxford 2012, pp. 1-23, 29-76, 189-207.

W. D Heilmeyer, 'History of the Display of the Telephos Frieze in the Twentieth century', in R. Dreyfus and E. Schraudolph eds, *Pergamon: The Telephos Frieze from the Great Altar*, Volume 1, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, 1996, p. 29-39.

Website addresses:

<http://www.artandscienceofcuration.org.uk/>

<http://www.artandscienceofcuration.org.uk/what-is-a-curator-lucilla-burn/>

<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/research/reapproachingancientcyprus>

<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/material-cultures-public-engagement>

<http://www.ashmolean.org/transforming/2009/>

<http://www.ashmolean.org/transforming/journey/>

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 03 August 2016