INTRODUCTION TO CONSERVATION OF METAL, PAPER & TEXTILES AT THE ISLAND OF ZAKYNTHOS, GREECE

Course ID: HIS 489
May 26 - June 15, 2024

Academic Credits: 6 Semester Credit Units (Equivalent to 9 Quarter Units)
School of Record: Culver Stockton College

This program provides breakfast only, during weekdays. Students are responsible for all other meals. There are plenty inexpensive and mid-range local restaurants at Zakynthos that offer a typical three-course Greek meal.

DIRECTORS:
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Dr. Angela Pencheva, Balkan Heritage Foundation (balkanheritage@gmail.com)

INTRODUCTION

This is a beginner program, introducing students to the interventive and preventive Conservation of textiles, paper & metal objects. This field school is hosted by the Department of the Environment of the Ionian University, Zakynthos campus (Greece). The program provides a unique opportunity for students to gain comprehensive knowledge and hands-on experience on the conservation and preservation of organic and inorganic cultural objects. Participants will be guided through the history and technology of ecclesiastical, historical, ethnographic textiles, papers and metal objects and stages of their study, conservation, and documentation. This program will take place at the labs of the Division Conservation of Antiquities & Works of Art at the Ionian University.

During the program, students will work with authentic and replicas of textiles, archival materials, and metal objects. The project includes three modules: practical work in the documentation and restoration of textiles, paper, and metal; lectures, training, study visits and excursions to the General Archives of Zakynthos (paper) and to the Ecclesiastical Museum of St. Dionysious (textiles & metal).

The workshop enables participants to gain comprehensive knowledge and hands-on experience in paper, metal and textile conservation, documentation, and scientific analysis. Students will explore the principles of material conservation, methods, theories, and will learn how to use optical
microscopy, X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) and X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) instruments for conservation work.

**IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER**

The Center for Field Sciences was established to support field training in a range of sciences at sites across the world. Traveling and conducting field work involves risk. Students interested in participating in any CFS program must weigh the potential risk against the value of education provided for the program sites of their choosing.

Risk is inherent in everything we do and the CFS takes risk seriously. A committee of leading scholars review each field school location prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the CFS continually monitors conditions at the program site, its academic quality and ability to conduct as safe of an experience as possible.

The CFS does not provide trip or travel cancellation insurance. Students are encouraged to explore such insurance policies on their own. Post Covid 19, most basic policies do not cover trip cancelation due to pandemics. If you wish to purchase an insurance policy that covers such contingencies, explore Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) plans. Insuremytrip.com, Squaremouth.com or Travelguard.com are possible websites where students may explore different insurance policies.

You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home, dorms, or college town. You will be exposed to the elements, live in rustic accommodation, and expect to engage in physical activity daily.

We do our best to follow the schedule and activities as outlined in this syllabus. Yet local permitting agencies, political, environmental, personal, or weather conditions may force changes. This syllabus, therefore, is only a general commitment. Students should allow flexibility and adaptability as research work is frequently subject to change.

All students must consult medical professionals to ensure they are fit to participate in this program. If you have any medical concerns, please consult your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the program director – as appropriate.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the workshop the participants will:

- Be able to develop basic practical skills (depending on participant’s initial level of qualification) in textiles, paper and metal conservation treatments.
- Become acquainted with the basic methods of all the required documentation for the conservation of textiles, paper and metal using graphic software, as well as photo documentation.
- Learn about the forms, types, traditions, and technology of manufacture of textiles, paper and metal.
- Get acquainted with different case studies for preventive conservation of organic and inorganic materials.
- Meet professionals working in the areas of conservation in Greece.

**LEARNT SKILLS**
We are aware that many students may not seek academic careers but will pursue employment in the private sector. To that end, we are following the Twin Cairns Skills Log Matrix™ (https://twincairns.com/skills-log-matrix/) and will provide training for the following skills:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Skill Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Ability to take clear images of various feature, artifact &amp; soil colors at various light and field depth conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artifact Conservation</td>
<td>Ability to expertly conserve, preserve &amp; restore a broad range of artifact types</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artifact Documentation</td>
<td>Ability to measure, record, photographed and classify various artifact types in the lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artifact Processing</td>
<td>Understand how to assign artifacts to accepted cultural/geological spheres, across space (classification) &amp; time (seriation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Conservation</td>
<td>Ability to conduct initial field conservation and preservation of different artifact types, features &amp; architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Recording</td>
<td>Ability to use printed or digital sheets to document &amp; record field data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archival Search</td>
<td>Ability to find &amp; search various databases for records related to prior work/research done on cultural or natural heritage in the project area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Interpretation</td>
<td>Ability to understand site history and provide clear and coherent interpretation for the public</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report Writing</td>
<td>Ability to write technical reports in coherent language that follow both federal and state regulations and law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibit Preparation</td>
<td>Ability to build mounds and prepare artifacts for museum exhibits or traveling off premises</td>
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**SKILLS MATRIX LEVELS**

The school instructors will evaluate the level each student achieved on the Twin Cairns Skills Log Matrix™ skills list provided above. Each skill will be graded on one of the following three levels:

- **Basic**: Can perform the skill/task with some supervision.
- **Competent**: Can perform the skill/task without any supervision.
- **Advanced**: Can perform the skill/task and teach others how to do it.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

The field school has three parts, each lasting a week: Week 1 – Paper Conservation; Week 2 – Textile Conservation; Week 3 – Metal Conservation.

The last day of the field school is Saturday, June 25.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Arrival and check-in by 7.30 pm. 8.00 pm - Welcome dinner.</td>
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| May 27-31  | Presentation of the Division Conservation of Antiquities & Works of Art, Balkan Heritage Field School, the project, and the participants. Ice-breakers and orientation. LECTURES, WORKSHOPS and Zakynthos Downtown Tour.  
- Lectures and workshops in the area of paper conservation.  
- Lectures and workshops in the area of chemistry for conservators and paper conservation.  
- Visit to the historic Public Library and the General Archives of Zakynthsos. |
| June 1-2   | Optional visits to the National Marine Park of Zakynthos. and the most popular beaches of the island.  
(Transportation to these venues is not included in the participation fee) |
| June 3-7   | Lectures and workshops in the area of the textile conservation.                                                                          |
Visit of the Ecclesiastical Museum of Holy Monastery of St. Dionysos.

June 8-9 Off weekend for self exploration of the island

June 10-14 Lectures and workshops in the area of metal conservation.
Visit of the Ecclesiastical Museum of Holy Monastery of St. Dionysos.

June 15 Departure. Check-out by 12.30 pm

*Course structure may be subject to change upon directors’ discretion.*

TYPICAL WORKDAY

Students will follow this daily schedule during the three weeks of lab work.

7:00 am Wakeup
7:30 am Breakfast and lunch preparation
8:00 am Departure to the lab
9:00 am - 1:00 pm Lab Work
1:00 - 2:30 pm Lunch break and free time
2:30 - 5:30 pm Lab work
7:00 pm Dinner – students on their own

ACADEMIC GRADING MATRIX

Students are required to participate in all components of the field school. Grades are determined as follows:

- Conservation of Paper/Textile/Metal Objects
- Written documentation of the Conservation Treatment
- Photo Documentation of the conservation treatment
- Attendance

All the components specified above have equal importance for the calculation of the average grade. The average degree grade will be recorded in the Transcript of Records.

❖ 60% - Lab work: Students will be assessed on the quality of their lab work (i.e., their ability to effectively use conservation methods and instruments to treat cultural artifacts). Students are expected to be able to link the lectures and readings to their laboratory work.

❖ 25% - Lab Records, demonstrated diligence and active participation: Students are required to record their work in a notebook that must be submitted to the project at the end of the field school. The notebook must include scaled sketches, procedures and other notes taken while working on assigned objects.

❖ 15% - Attendance.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The required minimum attendance for the successful completion of the field school is 95% of the course hours. Any significant delay or early departure from an activity will be calculated as an absence from the activity.

An acceptable number of absences for medical or other personal reasons will not be considered if the student catches up on the field school study plan through additional readings, homework, or tutorials with program staff members.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for participation in this field school but note that conservation work requires good manual dexterity skills and ability to carry out delicate bench work. Students will
receive hands-on training in conservation work and will spend most of the time learning how to conserve paper, textile, and metals in a lab setting.

Students will be taught how to use a variety of laboratory procedures and equipment – from microscopes to analytical instruments. Conservation work is slow and may be tedious. It requires patience and focus. This is an introductory course so we will cover all the very basic elements of conservation ethnographic work.

TRAVEL & MEETING POINT

We suggest you hold purchasing your airline ticket until six (6) weeks prior to departure date. Natural disasters, political changes, weather conditions and a range of other factors may require the cancelation of a program. The CFS typically takes a close look at local conditions 6-7 weeks prior to program beginning and makes a Go/No Go decision by then. Such a time frame still allows for the purchase of deeply discounted airline tickets while protecting students from potential loss of airline ticket costs if CFS is forced to cancel a program.

The meeting point is at the lobby of Hotel Yria, the project hotel near historical center of the town of Zakynthos (Zante), at 7:00pm the first day of the program. The Greek Island of Zakynthos (or Zante) is in the Ionian Sea. The island is a popular summer destination for many European tourists. The island is located less than 10 min away from the coast of the Peloponnese. The island has one airport – Zakynthos International Airport (ZTH).

Most visitors to Zakynthos arrive by bus. Buses from Athens to Zakynthos depart from Kifisou station, platform 38 and take about 7 hours. Kifisou station can be easily reached from Athens airport by bus X93 (€5), which takes about 45 minutes and arrives exactly where the bus to Zakynthos is waiting to depart. For bus schedule, see https://ktel-zakynthos.gr/. There are also many ferries connecting the port of Kyllini (mainland Greece) and Zakynthos. For ferry schedule, see Levante Ferries.

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**Figure 1:** The entrance to the Yria Hotel

**Figure 2:** Entrance to the Department of the Environment at the Ionian University

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PROGRAM ETIQUETTE

Greece, a land steeped in myth and history, is a captivating blend of ancient heritage and modern allure. From the birthplace of democracy in Athens to the legendary temples of Olympia and
Delphi, Greece is a living museum showcasing the achievements of past civilizations. Its vibrant culture, with its rich traditions, delicious cuisine, and warm hospitality, captivates visitors from around the globe. Whether exploring its archaeological wonders, soaking in the Mediterranean sun, or indulging in its vibrant nightlife, Greece offers an unforgettable experience. Greek people take pride in their heritage and achievements, and we kindly ask for your respect towards their customs, traditions, and culture.

EQUIPMENT LIST

- A pair of comfortable shoes for walking/hiking
- Wide brim hat
- Small backpack (for your water bottle, snacks, camera, etc.)
- Lab coat
- Medication - only prescription medicines you may need. It is not necessary to bring non-prescription medicine from your country since you can buy all basic non-prescription drugs in Greece.
- A converter to EU type electricity wall-plug if needed.
- A good attitude for work, fun, study, and discoveries.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

There are no special visa requirements for U.S. citizen travelling to Europe, as long as they do not stay longer than 3 months. Passport’s expiration date should exceed the stay by at least 3 months.

Citizens of other countries are asked to check the embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirements.

MEALS & ACCOMMODATIONS

Students will stay at the family-run Yria Hotel, located near the historical center of Zakynthos. The rooms are comfortable, with 2-4 beds, bathrooms with shower and WC, TV, 24-hour room service, lockers, hair dryers, LAN plugin connection, A/C and a fridge. Laundry service and free Wi-Fi are available at the hotel. Participants are not expected to bring any additional equipment, linen, or towels. Single rooms are available upon request.

The program covers the cost of breakfast only, during weekdays. Other meals during the week and all meals during the weekend are not included in tuition cost. There are plenty inexpensive and mid-range local restaurants that offer a typical three-course Greek meal for 10-20 Euros (equivalent to $11-22).

Participants should bring clothes and toiletries suitable for warm and sunny weather (26-36°C), but should also prepare for rainy, windy, and chilly days. Zakynthos offers a lot of opportunities for sports and entertainment. Possible leisure activities during the siesta and days off are swimming, sunbathing, surfing, scuba diving, fishing, and sailing.

Participants can visit the most famous landmark of the island Navagio beach, the numerous natural "Blue Caves", cut into cliffs around Cape Skinari, the mountain village Keri is located in the far south of the island.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

International dialing code: The Greek international phone code is +30.

Money/Banks/Credit Cards: Greece’s currency is the Euro, and there are several banks at Zakynthos. Most shops/supermarkets accept major credit cards (except for American Express,
which is not always accepted). However, credit cards are not commonly used for small purchases (for example coffee at a café).

**ATM Availability:** There are several ATM machines at Zakynthos.

**Local Language:** The native language is Greek. Given that Zakynthos is a major tourist destination, many locals speak English at least at some level.

**Measurement units:** degree Celsius (ºC), meter (m.), gram (gr.), liter (l)

**ACADEMIC CREDITS & TRANSCRIPT**

Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units). Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school based on the assessment matrix (above). This program provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and the registrar at their home institutions prior to attending this program.

Students will be able to access their transcript through our School of Record – Culver-Stockton College. C-SC has authorized the National Student Clearinghouse to provide enrollment and degree verification (at https://tsorder.studentclearinghouse.org/school/select). Upon completion of a program, students will get an email from C-SC with a student ID that may be used to retrieve transcripts. The first set of transcripts will be provided at no cost, additional transcripts may require payment. If you have questions about ordering a transcript, contact the C-SC office of the registrar at registrar@culver.edu.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

PDF files of all mandatory readings will be provided to enrolled students via a shared Dropbox folder.

**Paper Conservation**


**Textile Conservation**


Conservation of a mid-19th Century Pretiosa Mitre from New Norcia, Western Australia


**Metal Conservation**


**RECOMMENDED READINGS**

**Paper Conservation**


**Textile Conservation**


**Metal Conservation**

Hamilton, D. Methods of Conserving Archaeological Material from Underwater Sites. [URL: http://nautarch.tamu.edu/CRL/conservationmanual]

