



# CONSERVATION & INTERPRETATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL & ETHNOGRAPHIC TEXTILES AT THE ISLAND OF ZAKYNTHOS, GREECE

Course ID: HIS 489

May 24-June 7, 2026

**Academic Credits: 4 Semester Credit Units (Equivalent to 6 Quarter Units)**

**School of Record: Culver Stockton College**

This program provides breakfast only during teaching days. Students are responsible for all other meals (lunch & dinner on weekdays, all meals during weekend). There are plenty inexpensive and mid-range local restaurants at Zakynthos that offer a typical three-course Greek meal.

## DIRECTORS:

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Christos Karydis**, Conservator & Associate Professor at Ionian University, Greece ([balkanheritage@gmail.com](mailto:balkanheritage@gmail.com))

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## INTRODUCTION

The program provides students with intensive training in ethnographic textile conservation. This program is designed for students who are considering a career in conservation and provides focused, in depth training for the study, conservation, preservation, mounting, and reconstruction of one type of ethnographic artifact – textiles. This is a hands-on program, and we will cover both theory and practice of textile conservation.

Students will be guided through the history and technology of ecclesiastical, historical, and ethnographic textiles and consequent stages of their study, conservation, and documentation. While most textiles are made with organic materials (cotton, wool, flax, etc), some include the use

of metal wires (gold, silver, copper, etc). This program will train students to engage with textiles with both organic and inorganic components.

Students will explore the principles of material conservation, including methods and theories. To better understand structure and materials, students will learn how to use analytical instruments, including optical microscopy, X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) and X-Ray Diffraction (XRD). Students will learn how to operate and interpret results.

During the program, students will work with authentic and replicas of textiles of various types and sizes. This program takes place at the labs of the [Department of the Environment at the Ionian University](#), on the Greek Island of Zakynthos.

#### **IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER**

The Anthropocene Research Center was established to support field training in a range of sciences at sites within the U.S. & across the world. Traveling and conducting field work involves risk. Students interested in participating in any ARC program must weigh the potential risk against the value of education provided by the program of their choosing.

Risk is inherent in everything we do, and the ARC takes risks seriously. A committee of leading scholars review each field school location prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the ARC continually monitors conditions at the program's site and so we can provide an experience that is as safe as possible.

The ARC 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 cancellation 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.

Students should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those experienced at home, dorms or college towns. Students will be exposed to the elements, live in rustic accommodation, and expect to engage in daily physical activity.

We do our best to follow schedule and activities as outlined in this syllabus. Yet local permitting agencies, political, environmental, personal, and/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 modification.

All students must consult medical professionals to ensure they are fit to participate in an ARC field program. ARC is not qualified to provide medical advice. For all other concerns, please consult with ARC staff members or program director(s) – 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 conservation treatment.
- Become acquainted with the basic methods of required documentation for the conservation of textile using graphic software, as well as photo documentation.

- Learn about the forms, types, traditions, and technology of manufacture of ethnographic textiles in the Eastern Mediterranean, from the Middle Age to the modern era.
- Get acquainted with different case studies for preventive conservation of organic and inorganic textile materials.
- Meet professionals working in the areas of conservation in Greece.

## LEARNT SKILLS

We strongly support students who seek employment in the Cultural Resource Management sector – whether with private CRM companies or in government compliance agencies. CRM employers seek to understand the skills students learn at the field school, so listing (and ranking) those should help students secure CRM employment. To that end, we are listing all the skills students will learn during this program. At the end of the field school, students will get a Certificate of Completion, where each skill will be ranked at one of 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.

Students will be trained in the following skills:

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

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The field school includes lectures & workshop. See below schedule of activity.

WEEK 1	
<b>Sunday</b>	
7:30pm	Arrival and check-in by 7:30pm 8:00pm - Welcome dinner
<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	
7:00am	Wakeup
7:00-8:00am	Breakfast & lunch preparation
8:00am	Departure to lab
9:00am-1:00pm	<b>Lectures</b> Lecture 1: Intro to preservation

	Lecture 2: Introduction to stain removal: exercise (wax, ink stains etc.)
1:00-2:30pm	Lunch break and free time
2:30-5:30pm	<p><b>Workshops</b></p> <p>Workshop 1: Documentation techniques of textiles (causes of deterioration)  Workshop 2: Documentation  Workshop 3: Mechanical cleaning and humidification techniques.  Workshop 4: Introduction to stitching support  Workshop 5, 6, 7: Stitching exercises  Workshop 8: Stain removal: exercise (wax, ink, humidity stains etc.).</p>
7:00pm	Dinner – students on their own
<b>Friday</b>	
9:00am-1:00pm	Visit to the Ecclesiastical Museum of the Holy Monastery of St. Dionysios
<b>Saturday &amp; Sunday</b>	
All day	Time off; Explore Zakynthos on your own
<b>WEEK 2</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	
7:00am	Wakeup
7:00-8:00am	Breakfast & lunch preparation
8:00am	Departure to lab
9:00am-1:00pm	<p><b>Lectures</b></p> <p>Lecture 1: Intro to wet cleaning</p>
1:00-2:30pm	Lunch break and free time
2:30-5:30pm	<p><b>Workshops</b></p> <p>Workshop 1: Documentation techniques of textiles (causes of deterioration)</p>
7:00pm	Dinner – students on their own
<b>Tuesday-Thursday</b>	
7:00am	Wakeup
7:00-8:00am	Breakfast & lunch preparation
8:00am	Departure to lab
9:00am-1:00pm	<p><b>Workshops</b></p> <p>Workshop 1: Documentation and preparation before wet cleaning  Workshop 2,3: Wet cleaning (1st object &amp; 2nd object)  Workshop 4: Finishing with wet cleaning techniques</p>
1:00-2:30pm	Lunch break and free time
2:30-5:30pm	<p><b>Workshops</b></p> <p>Workshop 5: Stitching exercise  Workshop 6, 7, 8: Mounting (board preparation)  Workshop 9, 10: Hanger preparation (techniques and materials)</p>
7:00pm	Dinner – students on their own
<b>Friday</b>	
9:00am-1:00pm	Visit to the Dionysios Solomos Museum
<b>Saturday</b>	
12:30pm	Departure. Check-out by 12.30 pm

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

#### ACADEMIC GRADING MATRIX

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

- ❖ **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, textiles, 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 intensive course so we will cover basic and advanced elements of conservation of organic and inorganic ethnographic textiles.

## 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.

## 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 cancellation of a program. The ARC 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 time frame still allows for the purchase deeply discounted airline tickets while protecting students from potential loss of airline ticket costs if the ARC 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 [Ktel Buses](#). There are also many ferries connecting the port of Kyllini (mainland Greece) and Zakynthos. For ferry schedule, see [Levante Ferries](#).



Figure 1: The entrance to the Yria Hotel



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

## 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 on request.

The program covers only the cost of breakfast. **Other meals are not included.** 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.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

There are no special visa requirements for U.S. citizen travelling to Greece, 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.

## **EQUIPMENT LIST**

- A pair of comfortable shoes for walking/hiking
- 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.

## **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 (°C), meter (m.), gram (gr.), liter (l)

## **ACADEMIC CREDITS & TRANSCRIPT**

Attending students will be awarded 4 semester credit units (equivalent to 6 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 80 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 transcripts 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](mailto:registrar@culver.edu).

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

Karydis, C. 2010. The Orthodox Christian Sakkos. Ecclesiastical Garments dating to the 15th- 20th c. from the Holy Mountain of Athos. Collection Survey, Scientific Analysis & Preventive Conservation. Oxford: Archaeopress British Archaeological Reports.

Karydis, C., Siatou, A and Karabotsos, A. 2009. The Garment of a Byzantine Emperor from Mount Athos: Observation & Analysis. In: TECHNART 2009, Non-destructive and Microanalytical Techniques in Art and Cultural Heritage, Athens, 27 - 30 April 2009.

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

Karydis, C, 2019. The Unpublished Coptic Textiles of the Monastery of St. John The Theologian: Preliminary Results of Previous Alterations and Scientific Analysis.

Catling, D and Grayson, J. 2004. Identification of Vegetable Fibers. London: Archetype.

e-conservation, online magazine, 2013, N25, page 138.

#### **RECOMMENDED READINGS**

Cardon, D. 2007. Natural Dyes - Sources, Tradition, Technology, Science. London: Archetype.

Carr, D., Cruthers, N., Smith, C and Myers, T. 2008. Identification of Selected Vegetable Textile Fibers. *Reviews in Conservation*, Vol. 9, 75- 87.

Greaves, PH and Saville, B.P. 1995. Microscopy of Textile Fibers. Oxford: Bios Scientific Publishers.

Pinniger, D. 2008. Pest Management in Museums, Archives and Historic Houses (Re printed). London: Archetype.

Rogerson, C and Eastop, D. 1999. The Application of Cross- Sections in the Analysis of Historic Textiles, *The Conservator*, Vol. 23, 49-56.

Staniforth, S (edit). 2013. Historical perspectives on preventive conservation. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute.

Timar- Balazsy and Eastop, D. 1999. Chemical Principles of Textile Conservation. London: Butterworth-Heinemann.

Woodfin, W. 2012. The embodied Icon: Liturgical vestments and sacramental power in Byzantium. Oxford: University Press.