

**Classics 201, Section 1: Classics Seminar
Introduction to Greco-Roman Material Culture
Spring 2011**

Class Meeting: W: 3:00-3:50; Wallace Hall 115

Instructor: Ben Costello

Office: 16 Wallace Hall

Office Hours: T / Th: 11:00-11:50 (or whenever the door is open)

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Course Description and Goals:

Objects of everyday life surround us almost without notice, yet their presence is essential to the functioning of all aspects of society, from its most basic component, the individual, to large military, religious, and governmental institutions. This basic fact also holds true for the ancient Greco-Roman world, which although is filled with iconic images of monumental architecture and works of art, was dependent upon the more mundane objects of everyday life. This course will provide an introduction to the method and theory of material culture studies and the various classes of objects that comprise the material record of the ancient Mediterranean world (i.e. ceramic, glass, metal, etc.). Participants will learn how archaeological artifacts are classified, catalogued, and described. The emphasis of this course will be on class discussion of topics relevant to the course, which will be augmented by outside readings.

By the end of this course students should be able to do the following:

- Become familiar with the various categories of Greco-Roman material culture, particularly those in the Monmouth College collections.
- Become familiar with current scholarship dealing with material culture studies.
- Be familiar with basic techniques used in cataloguing archaeological material.
- Record archaeologically relevant data from different classes of artifacts.

Course Requirements and Policies:

- **Attendance:** The nature of the engaged college classroom requires attendance and active participation at all class lectures and events. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each session. Because of the hands-on nature of the class, and the limited meeting times, it is especially important that students attend every session. As a result, attendance forms a significant portion of the final grade. While it is understandable that emergencies and illness may interfere with class attendance, due to the visual nature of the course, missed classes can seriously compromise student performance. Each student is permitted one unexcused absence without penalty, with each additional unexcused absence resulting in a 5% reduction in the final grade. If a session is missed, arrangements can be made with the instructor to make up the time for reduced credit (50%).

Note regarding Student Athletics, Religious Holidays, and/or Academic Commitment (i.e. Conference): Absences related to these situations must be pre-approved by the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to provide a complete list of any classes missed during the semester by the end of the second week of the classes. In some cases further documentation may be required. Please pay particular attention to conflicts with dates of exams.

- **Extra Credit:** Opportunities for extra credit will take the form of attendance at Classics Department and Archaeological lectures during the course of the semester. Attendance will be taken at the lectures, and each student is responsible for signing in to receive credit. No extra credit assignments will be given other than that offered on exams and/or quizzes. Requests for individual extra credit assignments will not be considered.
- **Make Up Policy:** The only way to make up a missed session is with an excused absence. For the absence to be excused, you must provide acceptable documentation from a qualified professional of a serious crisis. If such an event occurs, the instructor must be notified within 24 hours.
- **Accessibility/Office Hours:** I encourage students to come to my office to discuss any questions, concerns, ideas, special considerations or other important issues. If you have class during my office hours, I will schedule appointments at other times with advance notice. Students are welcome to stop by and see me whenever my office door is open. If my office door is closed, please feel free to e-mail me and I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours.
- **Academic Honesty:** Students in this course are encouraged to do their homework together. All other classwork, especially quizzes and exams, must be the student's own work. Plagiarism, i.e., copying someone else's work without giving credit, is to be avoided. Such copying--from a book, another classmate's paper, or any other source--is dishonest.

At Monmouth College we view academic dishonesty as a threat to the integrity and intellectual mission of our institution. Any breach of the academic honesty policy – either intentionally or unintentionally - will be taken seriously and may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or expulsion from the college. It is each student's responsibility to read, understand and comply with the general academic honesty policy at Monmouth College, as defined in the Scots Guide (<http://department.monm.edu/stuserv/student-handbook/academic.htm>) and to the specific guidelines for each course, as elaborated on the professor's syllabus.

The following areas are examples of violations of the academic honesty policy:

1. Cheating on tests, labs, etc;
2. Plagiarism, i.e., using the words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit – **THIS INCLUDES WEBSITES.**
3. Improper collaboration between students, i.e., not doing one's own work on outside assignments unspecified as group projects by the instructor. If two papers with identical or nearly identical work are submitted by different students, **both papers will receive a failing grade.**
4. Submitting work previously submitted in another course, without previous

authorization by the instructor.
(This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

- **Miscellaneous:**
 - Please be sure to turn off all electronic devices before class begins. If you use a computer to take notes, please insure that the sound is turned off, or power up before class.
 - Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak directly to Disability Services (mellinger@monm.edu or 309-457-2257) and to the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester. All discussions will remain confidential.
 - Please do not bring children and/or pets to class.
 - Please be punctual. Late arrivals disrupt the entire class.

Course Assessment and Evaluation:

Grades in this course will be determined by the following:

Attendance	: 40%
Participation	: 40%
Final Project/Presentation:	: 20%

Grading will be determined on the traditional straight scale (A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, etc.

*All grades are non-negotiable.

- **Final Project/Presentation:** In consultation with the instructor, the student will prepare a written evaluation (600-900 words) of an object from the Greco-Roman world currently held in the Shields Collection of Antiquities at Monmouth College. This will form the basis for an 8-10 minute presentation given to the class at the end of the semester.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to come to class each day having completed any readings assigned for that day and prepared to discuss them intelligently during the session. Class participation is determined based on active involvement and engagement in the classroom during each class meeting.

Caveat: The professor reserves the right to make changes or additions to this schedule. Changes will be announced either in class or via e-mail. If you are not in class when such an announcement is made, it is the student's responsibility to obtain updated schedule information from either the professor or a classmate. Misunderstandings of the schedule will not be considered a sufficient excuse for lack of preparation or missing an assignment or exam.