

ARCL0111 PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION

2023-24, Term 1

MA module
15 credits

Coordinator: JILL SAUNDERS

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Coordinator's room number and office hours: 201, Tuesdays 2-4 pm (online office hours)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ASSESSMENTS:

The coursework coversheet is available on the course Moodle pages and here:
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/currentstudents>

Please enter your five-digit candidate code on the coversheet and on the subject line when you upload your work to Moodle

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1.1 Moduledescription

Over recent years, the emphasis in conservation has turned increasingly from remedial conservation (putting right what has gone wrong in the past) to preventive conservation (minimizing or eliminating things which could go wrong in the future).

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The assignment will be discussed in class, in advance of the submission deadline. All students will also participate in related formative assessment. If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should discuss this with the Module Coordinator in advance (via office hours or class Moodle forum). You will receive feedback

All data files and important information provided by the stakeholders are available on Moodle on the [ARCL0111 module page](#)

Preparation for class

You are expected to read the essential readings as well as watching any videos and completing any online activities on Moodle each week. Completing the readings is essential for your effective participation in the activities and discussions that we will do, and it will greatly enhance your understanding of the material covered. Ideally, this should be supplemented with selected readings from the recommended list. Further readings provided on the online list give you a sense of the range of current work on a given topic and are a starting point for your research for assessments. Be sure to familiarise yourself with planned activities and discussions for each live class in advance so that any necessary resources are downloaded and/or ready to use.

Visit the Moodle Module Homepage for important background information to complement the week-by-week readings. Please also refer to the [Online Reading List](#) linked to the library for easy access to extended reading suggestions.

4. SYLLABUS

All essential readings are available online through www.ucl.ac.uk/library or via the link provided with the entry. All recorded lectures will be made available on Moodle or via the link provided with the entry. All live classes are to be attended in person at IoA, B13. Remember to check Moodle for additional activities and live class details!

Week 1 Introduction to Preventive Conservation
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VIDEOS TO WATCH

1.1 Introduction to Preventive Conservation

An overview of the theory of preventive conservation including a brief history of the field and contemporary issues and themes.

ESSENTIAL READING

CCI, 2017 Agents of deterioration <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation>

Boersma, F. 2016. Preventive Conservation more than 'dusting Objects'? An Overview of the Development of the Preventive Conservation Profession. *Journal of the Institute of Conservation* 39, 1, 3-17.

Clavir, M. 1994. Preserving Conceptual Integrity: Ethics and Theory in Preventive Conservation. *Studies in Conservation: Preprints of the Contributions to the Ottawa Congress, 126 September*, Preventive Conservation: Practice, Theory and Research 2, 53-57.

Clemetson, L., 2005. History is slipping away as collections deteriorate. *The New York Times* 6 December 2005. <https://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/06/arts/history-is-slipping-away-as-collections-deteriorate-report-says.html>

Michalski, S. and Karsten, I., 2018. The Effectiveness of Preventive Conservation Actions. *Studies in Conservation* 63, 1, 187-194.

Michalski, S. 1994. A Systematic Approach to Preservation: Description and Integration with Other Museum Activities. *Studies in Conservation: Preprints of the Contributions to the Ottawa Congress, 126 September*, Preventive Conservation: Practice, Theory and Research 2, 811.

Rose, C., L., Hawks, C., A., and Waller, R., 2019. Preventive Conservation Approach to the Storage of Collections. In Elkin, L., and Norris, C., A., (eds.). New York: Society for the Preservation of Natural History; American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works; Smithsonian Institution; The George Washington University Museum Studies Program. 45.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Robert_Waller4/publication/335682131_A_Preventive_Conservation_Approach_to_the_Storage_of_Collections/links/5d74393b92851cacdb293d4f24124a/Preventive_Conservation_Approach_to_the_Storage_of_Collections.pdf

Staniforth, S. Ed. 2018. Historical Perspectives on Preventive Conservation. *Readings in Conservation*. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute.

Thomson, G. 1994. *The Museum Environment*. London: Butterworths.

Holl, K., Kilian, R., Klemm, L., Lengsfeld, K., Bichlmair, S., and Lutz, J. 2018. Sustainable Museum Storage Buildings for Longterm Preservation. *Studies in Conservation* 63, 1, 366-368.

LIVE CLASS BEGINNING THURSDAY OCTOBER 13: 10:00-11:50 BST

Introductory lectures (JS):

1.2 Plan for the Term

An overview of the aims and structure of the module, and the theory of preventive conservation including a brief history of the field and key contemporary issues and themes.

1.3 Agents of Deterioration

An overview of the 10 key issues affecting material heritage. 1.04 Tf 1 0 0 1 75.384 411.72 Tm 0 g 0 G [(so)5(n)3(,)

Canadian Institute of Conservation, The ABC Method: a risk management approach to the preservation of cultural heritage, available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/risk-management-heritage-collections-abc-method-risk-management-approach.html> Overview, 7-35.

RECOMMENDED READING

Kipp, A., 2016. Managing Previously Unmanaged Collections: A Practical Guide for Museums. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. Chapters 7, 8 and 9, 85-138.

Henry, M., C. and Jessup, Wendy C. 2018. From the Outside In: A Collaborative Approach to Confronting and Capacity-Constrained Preventive Conservation Strategies for Collective Heritage Buildings and Sites. Studies in Conservation, 63, 1, 121-26.

Horemans, B, Schalm, Q, Wael, K., D. Cardell, C. and Grieken, R.V. 2012. Atmospheric Composition and Microclimate in the Alhambra Monument, Granada (Spain), in the Context of Preventive Conservation. Conference Series Materials Science and Engineering, 67,

Strlic, M., Grossi, C.M., Dillon, C, Bell, N, Fouseki, K, Brimblecombe, P, Menart, E, Ntanos, K, Lindsay, W, Thickett, D, France, F, and De Bruin, G. 2015. Damage Function for Historical Paper. Part I: Fires for Use. Heritage Science, 3, 1, 412.

LIVE CLASS B1 THURSDAY OCTOBER 6th 9:00-11:50 BST

Formative Assessment Project group presentations and discussion

Preventive conservation in context group activity: real life scenarios, what would you do? (JS, CW, GR)

Week 5 Microclimates and Environmental Monitoring

VIDEOS TO WATCH

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Brokerhof, A., Kuiper, P. and Scholten, S., 2018. Spread or Sacrifice: Dilemma for Lighting Policies in Conservation. *Studies in Conservation* 63, 1, 283-294.

Rogge, C. E. and Shullman, A., 2016. The effects of ultraviolet and visible light on common colour changes, photooxidation and the use of Tinuvin 292 as a photoprotectant. *Collection Forum* 30, 1, 15-33.

Thomson, G. 1994. *The Museum Environment* London: Butterworths. 2-64.

RECOMMENDED READING

Ashley Smith, J., 1999. Risk assessment for object conservation. Chapter 12: Light entertainment. *Studies in Conservation* 44, 1, 22-45.

Brommelle, N. S., 1964. The Russell and Abney Report on the action of light on watercolours. *Studies in Conservation* 9, 4, 140-152.

Farke, M., Binetti, M. and Hahn, O. 2016. Light damage to selected organic materials in display cases: a study of different light sources. In *Studies in conservation* 61, 193-203.

Ford, B. and Smith, N. 2011. Lighting guidelines and the lightfastness of Australian indigenous objects at the National Museum of Australia. In Bridgland, J. (ed). 2011. *COMCC 16th (7th) Annual Conference* Lisbon 12-18 September 2011: preprints Lisbon: Criterio Producao Grafica, Lda. -18. Available online: https://www.microfading.com/uploads/1/1/7/3/11737845/0409_339_ford_paper_en.pdf

Garside, D., et al., 2017. How is museum lighting selected? An insight into current practice in UK museums. *Journal of the Institute of Conservation* 40, 1, 314.

Romich, H. et al. (2017) *Journal of the Institute of Conservation* 40, 1, 314.

Week8 Pollution

VIDEOS TO WATCH**8.1 Pollution (COG)**

Air-borne pollutants, whether particulate or gaseous, can have very serious effects on museum collections. Pollutants may come from outside the museum (e.g. SO_2 , NO_x from combustion processes), from the showcase materials (e.g. COOH and HCHO from wood or manufactured boards), or even from the objects themselves (e.g. H_2S from wool).

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 LIVE CLASS B13 THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23rd 9:00-11:50BST

09:00-09:30 Pollution lecture (JS)

8.2 Introduction to Oddy testing

09:45-11:50 Pollution discussions and activities DS, TG Conservation lab (615)

Week 9 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

 VIDEO WATCH none this week!

 ESSENTIAL READING

Chiwara, D2018. Sustainable Pest Management Through Preventive Conservation: Case Studies in the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Military Museum. *Studies in Conservation* 63, 1, 335-37.

Collections Trust and Birmingham Museums, 2019. <http://www.whatseatingyourcollection.com/>

Pinniger, David2010. Saving Our Heritage. *Pest Management in Museums and Historic Houses*. *Outlooks on Pest Management* 21.5, 239-41.

Ryder, S. and Mendez, A., 2019. Using Risk Zones in Museums as Part of an IPM Program. *World Studies in Conservation* 64, 4, 203-207.

XavierRowe, A., Lankester, P., Lauder, D. and Pinniger, D., 2018. Operation Clothes Moth: Where Preventive Conservation and Public Engagement Meet. *Studies in Conservation* 63, 1, 445-450.

Mercer, J. et al. 2012. Culture and disaster risk reduction: Lessons and opportunities. *Environmental Hazards* 11(2), 74-95.

Tandon, A. and Pradhan, M. 2017. Building capacity for post-disaster recovery of museum collections in Nepal. In: Bridgland, J. (Ed). *ICOMCC 18th Triennial Conference Preprints, Copenhagen 4-8 September 2017*.

UNISDR. 2015. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

