

# DISC 101Q

Fakes, Forgeries, and Finance

Fall 2017

## Course Description and Objectives

**“While art looks as if it is all about beauty, as a business it is full of shady stuff”** (Nouriel Roubini, economist)

Designed as an entry point into the contentious world of global art markets, this course is a challenging look at a wide variety of underlying motivators that influence the production of fakes and forgeries, as well as the trade in illicit art. At its core, this course will encourage you to examine the processes of collecting, authenticating, and displaying art through several academic lenses including, law, ethics, finance, and art history. The course is based on a series of real-world case studies that encompasses a wide

variety of issues within the field of art history.

As this is an Inquiry-based course, we will not only attempt to address questions that are fundamental to our field, but generate new questions designed to hone our critical analytical skills. We will be consider just how information is generated and by whom.

Over the semester you will directly engage with the case studies, and produce reports that will strengthen your ability to research, synthesize, analyze, and present your findings. There are no easy answers, often no ready resolution, but you will learn to evaluate the evidence and come to your own conclusions.

### Course Details

Dr. Tasha Dobbin-Bennett

[tdobbin@emory.edu](mailto:tdobbin@emory.edu)

Office: Humanities Hall 109A

Class Meets:  
FTDC Conference Room

Class Time: Tues/Thurs  
1.40—3.20pm



Cycladic Harpist (MMA 47.100.1)

### What's in this Syllabus.

- Course Requirements
- Grading Scale & Syllabus
- Policies and Resources

## Texts:

Sharon Waxman, *Loot: The Battle over the Stolen Treasures of the Ancient World*, Times Books: 2008.

Kenneth Lapatin, *Mysteries of the Snake Goddess: Art, Desire, and the Forging of History*, Da Capo Press: 2003.

Supplementary readings will be assigned and be provided by the profes-



Detail of the Getty Kouros (Getty 85.AA.40)

## Course Requirements

This course is discussion-based where you will be leading the discussion points from class to class. You will need to have completed the reading prior to class, have taken notes, and be ready to discuss those points with your colleagues.

### Attendance and Class Participation (10%)

Be present. I value your perspective and I want to hear what you have to say about the topic we are discussing! I expect class discussion to be engaged and respectful, and that you will have completed that day's assigned reading before class. Class participation may include discussion questions, in-class short writing, and actively speaking up. You may miss no more than 3 classes before your participation and attendance grade will decrease by 1% per class missed. If you miss a total 10 classes, beyond the 3 classes granted, you will lose all of your participation and attendance grade.

### Case Study Reports—5 x 15% (75%)

The case study reports form the majority of your grade. You will be completing 5 case study reports across the semester, and each report corresponds to the case

study we will have just discussed in class. These reports will vary in content, but will be no more than 3-5 pages in length. These reports are an opportunity to showcase your interpretation of the case studies. All reports will contain your summary of the case, an analysis of the points of view, citations and other primary sources to corroborate your conclusions.

### Research Paper (15%)

You will be preparing a final research paper that examines a fake, forgery, or illicitly traded work of art. This will be of your own choosing. The research paper, and associated presentation, is a chance for you to highlight your research skills, which you have been developing all semester.

### Grading Scale

A 93-100 C+ 77-79

A- 90-92 C 73-76

B+ 87-89 C- 70-72

B 83-86 D+ 67-69

B- 80-82 D 60-66

## Important Dates in the Syllabus

Case Studies are all due by 5pm:

Case 1. Sept 15

Case 2. Oct 6

Case 3. Oct 20

Case 4. Nov 3

Case 5. Nov 17

Proposals for your Research Paper are due in class:

Oct 17

Research Presentations by students:

Nov 28 & 30

Research Papers are due on the last day of class:

Dec 5

## Class Schedule:

Week 1 (Aug 24): Introductions and Introduction to the course

Week 2 (Aug 29 - 31): Why do we collect things?

Aug 29 – Intro to the “Museum”

Aug 31 – What is the importance of knowing what your collection contains?

*Readings: Snake Goddess: Ch 1-4*

Week 3 - 4 (Sept 5 - 14):

Case Study 1 – “The Case of the ancient Cycladic Harpist”

*Readings: Snake Goddess: Ch 5-8*

Week 5 (Sept 19 - 21):

Case 2 – “The Case of the Getty Kouros”

*Readings: Loot pp. 172-201*

Week 6 (Sept 26 - 28): Research Week

Sept 26 – Library Research Instruction – Library Staff

Sept 28 – No class—field trip later in semester.

*Readings: Loot pp. 201—271*

Week 7 (Oct 3 - 5):

Oct 3 – “The Case of the Getty Kouros” - continued

Oct 5 – 3-D printing class

Week 8 (Oct 10 - 12):

Fall Break and Case 3 – “The Case of Subhash Kapoor”

**Oct 10 – NO CLASS! – FALL BREAK**

Oct 12 – “The Case of Subhash Kapoor”

Week 9 (Oct 17 - 19): “The Case of Subhash Kapoor” - cont.

Week 10-11 (Oct 24 - Nov 2):

Case 4 – “The Case of Shaun Greenhalgh”

Week 12-13 (Nov 7 - 16):

Case 5 – “The Case of Slow Art”

Week 14 (Nov 21 - 23): “The Case of the Future of Museums”

Nov 21 – “The Case of the Future of Museums”

**Nov 23 – Thanksgiving Break**

Week 15 (Nov 28 - 30): Research Presentation and Review

Nov 28 – Student Presentations

Nov 30 – Student Presentations

Week 16 (Dec 5)

Dec 5 - Last Class -

Class Review

Faculty/ Course Evaluation

# Class Policies

## **Attendance is expected.**

Regular and attentive attendance is strongly recommended. You may miss no more than 3 classes before your participation and attendance grade will decrease by 1% per class missed. If you miss a total 10 classes, beyond the 3 classes granted, you will lose all of your participation and attendance grade.

## **You are solely responsible for making up any and all course material if you miss class.**

Make arrangements to get notes, reading assignments and lecture sheets from a classmate. These will not be available from the professor.

## **Academic integrity is essential.**

Violation of the academic honor code will not be tolerated. The results of violating the code are the failure of this class and the possible suspension or dismissal from this college.

## **One letter grade per day of lateness will be deducted from your score for any late assignments.**

Extensions may be granted at the professor's discretion. If you are having trouble completing an assignment on time, please contact the professor immediately.

# Honor Code

In our class we will adhere to the Honor Code as the responsibility for maintaining standards of unimpeachable honesty in all academic work and in campus judicial proceedings falls upon every individual who is a part of Oxford College of Emory University.

## Resources:

### Canvas:

I will be posting readings, sending you announcements, and placing your syllabus on Canvas.

### Oxford Library:

You have your own research librarians! Use them, they are fantastic.

Ms. Courtney Baron, your amazing research librarian, has set up a research guide for you:

[http://  
guides.oxford.library.emory.edu/fakes](http://guides.oxford.library.emory.edu/fakes)

### Writing Center:

Writing is a skill that is developed over time. Our writing center offers you one-on-one appointments to talk through your writing. You can find the Writing Center in the Library.

### Counseling and Career Services:

They are here to help!

[http://oxford.emory.edu/  
life/thriving-at-oxford/  
counseling-and-](http://oxford.emory.edu/life/thriving-at-oxford/counseling-and-)