



# Arcadia Center for Hellenic, Mediterranean and Balkan Studies

Arcadia University

## **GREC ESCH 325 From Grand Tour to *Tour de Force*: Practices and Politics of Greece's Cultural Heritage**

Credits: 3

### **Course description**

*The cultural heritage may be defined as the entire corpus of material signs - either artistic or symbolic - handed on by the past to each culture and, therefore, to the whole of humankind. ...[It] gives each particular place its recognizable features and is the storehouse of human experience. The preservation and the presentation of the cultural heritage are therefore a corner-stone of any cultural policy.*

In this definition UNESCO's International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) encapsulates the meaning of Cultural Heritage as well as its importance for the life of each generation. As a legacy of the past to the present and of the present to future generations, care and preservation of the cultural heritage falls within the precepts of sustainability which is a prerogative in our modern societies.

In this class we will examine the cultural heritage of Greece by examining various monuments and their function or symbolism in present-day society while we also examine the skills necessary for managing or protecting them. The class will raise issues regarding the modern approaches to the past, cultural heritage and national identity, state, public, community and collaborative archaeology as different approaches to the process of cultural heritage study and enhancement, the struggle against looting and illicit trafficking in cultural property, environmental factors affecting material cultural heritage, cultural heritage and sustainable development, cultural tourism and heritage tourism, the economics of culture and of museums.

Students will work individually or in small groups on specially designed semester projects. Supported by the content of the course, these projects will assist the students in the acquisition of some practical skills pertaining to museum and gallery curation, museum management, freelance consultancy, conservation and other professions in the field of cultural heritage management.