

Introduction to Epigraphy

Epigraphy is the study of inscribed texts (on stone, metal and other materials). This set of four lectures is intended for any student who expects to find themselves using epigraphic evidence in their study of the ancient Greco-Roman world. As such they are of relevance for students taking any of the ancient history period papers, the CAAH core papers, and many of the other option papers in ancient history in CAAH, AMH and Classics. They are intended to complement the 'Documents' lectures for the period papers, by providing a general point of entry to the use of inscriptions in the study of ancient history. For those planning to take the specific courses in epigraphy, whether in CAAH or the Masters programmes, there are separate classes and lectures for Greek and Roman epigraphy. These lectures will serve as an introduction for those also.

Week 1: What is epigraphy? (Definitions, range of the discipline and materials)

Week 2: What is the value/use of epigraphy? What is the epigraphic habit? (Epigraphy as a source for historical study)

Week 3: Practicalities: how do you 'do' epigraphy, where do you find it (basic methods, finding and citing)

Week 4: The digital 'revolution' (resources, new methods, AI...)