AR3064 Theory and Method in Archaeological Graphics and Illustration

Academic Year: 2009 - 2010
Semester: 1
Time and location: Semester 1
Mondays 10.00-12.00
020 Drawing Office
First meeting: Week beginning 5th October 2009
Module coordinator: Deborah Miles-Williams
Tutors: Deborah Miles-Williams
E-mail: deb@le.ac.uk
Room: 019 Illustrators Office
Office hours: Mon-Weds, Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm
Document prepared by DM-W 27/03/09
AR3064 Theory and Method in Archaeological Graphics and Illustration

Weighting: 20 credits
Coordinator: Deborah Miles-Williams
Other tutors: -

Module outline: This module introduces students to the basic principles and practice of archaeological graphics and illustration, through the preparation of artefact illustrations, plans, maps and reconstruction drawing. Emphasis is placed on the handling, observation and recording of archaeological artefacts and recorded site data (plans & sections), in order to produce publication standard illustrations. Consideration will also be given to the research potential of using reconstructions in interpretation of our past and the validity of reconstruction as an academic tool.

Aims:  
- To provide an introduction to the use of illustration, reconstruction and graphics in archaeology.
- To develop students with practical skills in artefact observation
- To become familiar with the conventions of recording artefacts
- Promote a greater awareness on matters of presentation and layout
- To introduce students to various aspects of manual and computer archaeological illustration
- To foster an appreciation of the research process that is involved in producing a reconstruction illustration

Intended learning outcomes: At the end of this module, students should be able to:
- Understand and apply appropriately the conventions in general use in archaeological illustration
- Develop an ability to integrate practical observational skills with drawing techniques
- Demonstrate a sense of appreciation of matters of layout and style with regards to their own illustration and written communication
- Achieve a basic understanding of computer drawing aids and their use in publication
- Understand the research processes towards creating an archaeological reconstruction drawing/painting
• Be able to engage critically in evaluating past and current interpretive approaches to the subject of reconstruction in archaeological illustration, and other media i.e. films.

**Method(s) of teaching:**

The module comprises:

- A weekly practical session (2hrs) where tutor will introduce different materials and recorded graphic data to be drawn.
- 1 x lecture
- Visit and meet with archaeological illustrators and graphic designers in their workplace

**Method of assessment:**

The assessment comprises of:

- Submission of 1 x portfolios (artefact & reconstruction) 70%
- 1 x written essay (2,500 words) 30%

The portfolios should contain the following:

**Artefact portfolio:**

A minimum of

3 x b/w artefact illustrations:

- (1 x pot, 1 x metal, 1 x flint or stone)
- 1 x plan/section (drawn using Macromedia Freehand/Adobe Illustrator)
- 1 x map (drawn using Macromedia Freehand/Adobe Illustrator)

Either a reconstruction drawing/painting or 2 x further artefacts

Drawings produced during timetabled sessions can be used as well as new work.

All work submitted should be mounted and presented with appropriate captions, and scales, along with original artwork and appropriate photocopied reductions.

**Written Essay:**

Written piece related to the use of illustration in a range of archaeological publications and other media. Max. 2,500 words.

## Reading list

The following books are in the main library:

930.1022 PIG copies x 1

Piggott, Stuart 1978 *Antiquity depicted: Aspects of Archaeological Illustration*

930.1 ADK copies x 1
Adkins, Lesley & Roy 1989 ‘Archaeological Illustration’

930.1022 ADD copies x 1

Broadribb, C 1970 ‘Drawing Archaeological Finds for Publication’

Addington, Lucile 1986 ‘Lithic Illustration: Drawing Flaked Stone Artefacts for Publication’

936.1 SOR copies x 1

Sorrell, A/edited by Sorrell, M 1981 ‘Reconstructing the Past’

The following books and technical papers are available in Debbie Miles-Williams office 019/ or the Drawing Office 020:

The Association of Archaeological Illustrators & Surveyors Technical Paper series:


King, D. & White, S. 1990, Paper no. 10. ‘The Illustration of Excavated Window Glass: Suggestions for Methods and Materials’

Allen, S.J. 1994, Paper no. 11. ‘The Illustration of Wooden Artefacts’


English Heritage ‘The Presentation of Historic Building Survey in CAD’


Adkins, L. & Roy 1989 ‘Archaeological Illustration’

Griffiths, N. & Jenner, J. 1990 ‘Drawing Archaeological Finds’
Websites:

The Association of Archaeological Illustrators & Surveyors

http://www.aais.org.uk/

This website will tell you all you need to know about Archaeological Illustration, with a gallery and useful web links.

Related websites:

Association of Illustrators

http://www.theaoi.com/

The Association of Medical Illustrators

http://www.ami.org/

Society of Botanical Artists

http://www.soc-botanical-artists.org/