Virtual Museum Project 2015, Assigned to Classics 177

**Description of Project:**

This assignment requires you to research a topic and to post an exhibit about it on our Omeka website. The topic must have something to do with ancient Greek visual culture (preferably 6th or 5th-century Athens), and must involve research (involving museum websites or Perseus and at least two scholarly articles and/or books). Choose a topic that involves a clear-cut question such as: “What is happening in our ‘mystery image’ (the man and woman at the door on the chous at the Met)?”; or “What is happening in the painting by the Harrow Painter (depicted above)?”; or “What do the kouroi (or korai) represent?”; or “What is the significance of nudity in Greek art (or culture in general)?” Some of these are huge topics. You job will be to explore the possibilities and to present some possible answers in a concise and well-informed way. Ideally, you will choose a clear-cut question that does not have a clear-cut answer. If you prefer, you may research a mythological topic, or the iconography of a particular divinity, but you will still need to take care to articulate a clear question. If you wish, two to four students may work on the same topic together. In that case (unless the research branches off into separate projects), the exhibit will be co-curated, but each student will write his or her own supplementary research report.

**Preliminary Steps, as explained in class:**

Note that the work for each step is due before class on date specified. For all of these steps, please be ready to share your progress with the class on the due date.

**November 6-11:** Choose possible topic(s), share with class.

**Friday, November 13:** Submit explanation of topic choice, with description of your planned research (one paragraph, with at least one image). Include bibliography if known. Also include questions; or requests for assistance.

**Wednesday, November 18:** Submit notes on chosen bibliography, with at least one quotation from a scholarly book or article. Also include questions or requests for assistance.

**Friday, November 20:** Post at least three relevant images with metadata on Omeka. (Class meets in Watson 419, so you can do this there).

**Formal Presentations run from November 23 till December 9 (sign up by November 21).**

If you schedule your presentation before December 2, you will give a formal presentation on “work in progress.”

This could be very helpful to you.
Every student must offer comments and questions about the presentations during class discussion (not necessarily every class session); and submit written comments on two projects presented by classmates (at least one paragraph, submitted to instructor and student).

**By Wednesday, December 2:** Post final exhibit on Omeka, and submit a supplementary research report by emailing me a PDF (two pages; use extra page if you wish to include images). The supplementary report should describe issues such as methodology and any background research you did. It may also be posted on Omeka if you wish to make it public.

**By Monday, December 14 (during exam period):** Submit written comments on two projects presented by classmates. Ideally, you will have submitted at least one of these much earlier, soon after the classmate’s presentation.

**The final version of the Capstone Project due December 2 consists of your Exhibit on Omeka and your supplementary research report.**

**To create a good Exhibit, you must:**

1. Have your exhibit topic approved in advance. It must have something to do with ancient Greek visual culture (preferably 6th or 5th century Athens), and must address a clear-cut question.
2. Meet all of the deadlines for the preliminary steps listed on the reverse and post your full exhibit by December 2.
3. Choose appropriate images.
4. Include a title for your exhibit.
5. Include titles for the objects in your exhibit (you may need to invent these also).
6. Demonstrate that you have completed some serious research (involving museum websites or Perseus and/or at least two scholarly articles and/or books).
7. Display a minimum of 6 images with appropriate metadata on Omeka. (Technical help available in Watson 419 on November 20; or by appointment with library staff). Metadata should include details such as approximate date, artist (if known), size (if known), information about permission to use the image, etc.
8. Include a clear narrative about your research question. Length will depend on the subject.
9. Include a description of each item displayed. As appropriate, explain why each object is relevant. Length will depend on the object.
10. Include in your narrative (#8) and/or in the descriptions (#9) some very short quotations of scholarly sources. If you are dealing with mythology, you should also quote a primary text. As usual, you must integrate or weave your selected quotation(s) into paragraphs written in your own words.
11. Write a supplementary research report (two pages, 12 point font, one-inch margins, with an extra page if you wish to include images). The supplementary report should describe issues such as methodology and any background research you did. This does not need to be posted on Omeka.
**Grading:** To do well, you will need to meet all of the requirements listed above, avoid grammatical mistakes and misspellings, and submit only your own work (or, if you are collaborating with other students, complete your fair share of the work and be honest about your own contributions).

**Note about Group Projects:** Collaborative projects will need to result in one coherent whole. You will need to work together (collaborate), not just divide up the work and report back when it is done. Providing feedback and editing each other's work will be part of this endeavor.

**Alternatively,** you could collaborate with other students on the early phases of research, and then branch off to develop an exhibit for which you are the sole curator and author. Be courteous and honest and don't abandon your classmates without giving fair warning. Make sure you keep me up to date about your plans.

Details on the image printed on the other side of this handout can be found on Perseus: [http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/artifact?name=Tampa%201986.70&object=Vase](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/artifact?name=Tampa%201986.70&object=Vase).