

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER & AFRICAN STUDIES

DEGREE: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY
CLASS: FOURTH YEAR
COURSE: NAF 408: ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION
LECTURER: SIMIYU WANDIBBA
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OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- a) Explain the philosophy and principles of archeological conservation.
- b) Identify the main agents of the deterioration and preservation of archaeological materials.
- c) Undertake basic conservation measures on archaeological materials.

MODE OF DELIVERY

Lectures, class discussions and student assignments.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to Archaeological Conservation

CAT 1: Take home

2. Adhesives and Consolidants

3. Agents of Deterioration: In archaeological environments; in the immediate post-excavation environment; in the long-term.

4. General Techniques of Conservation: Retrieval of artefacts; marking and labelling; examination and cleaning; stabilization; recording.

5. Examination and Cleaning of Silicious Materials: Stone; ceramics; cementing materials and their composites; glass.

6. Examination and Cleaning of Metals: Iron and its alloys; copper and its alloys; tin and its alloys.

CAT 2: Term paper

7. Examination and Cleaning of Organic Materials: Wood; leather; bone and teeth; textiles.

8. Stabilization of Silicious Materials: Stone; ceramics; cementing materials and their composites; glass.

9. **Stabilization of Metals:** Iron and its alloys; copper and its alloys; tin and its alloys.
10. **Stabilization of Organic Materials:** Wood; leather; bone and teeth; textiles.

BASIC TEXTS

Allsop, Dennis, J. Kenneth Seal and Christine C. Garvalade 2004.

Introduction to biodeterioration, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Available online.

Buys, Susan and Oakley, Victoria 2007. *Conservation and restoration of ceramics*,
reprint. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinmann.

Cronyn, J.M. 2004. *The elements of archaeological conservation*. London: Taylor &
Francis e-Library. Available online.

Kite, Marion and Thomson, Roy 2008. *Conservation of leather and related materials*.
London: Butterworth-Heinmann.

Pearson, C. 1987. *Conservation of marine archaeological objects*. London: Butterworths.

Rodgers, Bradley A. 2004. *The archaeologists' manual for conservation: A guide to non-toxic, minimal intervention artifact stabilization*. New York: Klumer AcademicPlenum Publishers.