



# MODULE: INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS CONSERVATION (BLENDED MODE OF PROVISIONING)

CC02PGD (8 Credits)

DURATION: 2 WEEKS (5 days in residence)

THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR HERITAGE SCIENCE & CONSERVATION

*Provisionally registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Act.*

*Registration certificate No. 2018/HE07/007 - valid until 31/12/2022*

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# INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS CONSERVATION

Enrollment category: Special Student  
8-credit module

## Module Purpose

The module, *Introduction to Ceramics Conservation*, is designed to provide students with the foundational skills and ethical background required for the analysis and treatment of damaged ceramic artefacts. These skills will equip the student with the capacity to identify causes of damage and deterioration as well as sufficient knowledge to identify the ceramic bodies, glazes and finishes. The students will receive instruction regarding ideal environments for storage and display in order to prevent or delay deterioration of intact as well as fragile material. These attainments are required to aid treatment decisions and implementation as well as recommendations regarding the storage and handling of the material.

Demonstrations and practical sessions will provide the necessary training in interventive practices. Students will learn how to employ tools, materials and equipment safely as well as receive instruction in the safe disposal of hazardous materials.

Further to the treatment of damaged and/or fragile ceramic artefacts, the students will acquire skills in the compilation of instructive and helpful reports which record the results of trials, analysis and specify treatment. Additional information regarding storage environments, handling, display, health and safety is also to be included in the report.

The modules specifically linked to this subject are *Conservation Theory & Skills (CTS)*.

## Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module, the student should be able to:

1. have a firm understanding of the Code of Ethics and be able to perform all conservation interventions in accordance with this code.
2. select the appropriate materials and methods for spot tests, analysis and treatment from a range of options.
3. execute all treatment required to conserve the ceramic material without causing physical or aesthetic damage, or obscuring/removing historically significant information, on an object of suitable complexity.
4. intelligibly document and record all findings and proposed treatment in order to produce an instructive and comprehensive, illustrated condition and treatment specification.
5. be informed of and compliant with health & safety requirements of the tools and materials employed.

## Themes

Lectures, demonstrations and practical sessions:

- Material characterisation, damage and condition assessment, and proposed treatment options
- Remedial interventive treatments:
  - bath and poultice cleaning, employing prepared sample material.
  - mechanical and solvent cleaning, employing prepared sample material.
  - consolidation of friable ceramics executed on selected sample material.
  - trial assembly and support mechanisms of fragmented ceramics, employing prepared sample material.
  - various adhesive techniques employed for low fired as well as vitrified ceramic material.
  - lost material replacement, including proprietary fillers, custom prepared fills, mould making & casting.
  - abrading and modelling.
  - airbrushing technique and equipment.
  - decoration and various integration techniques.
- Treatment specifications and COSHH sheets.

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## PRESCRIBED MODULE STUDY MATERIAL:

Buys, S. and Oakley, V. (2011) *Conservation and Restoration of Ceramics*. New York: Routledge.

## RECOMMENDED READING:

- Materials for Conservation: Organic Consolidants, Adhesives and Coatings by V. Horie
- The Conservation of Glass and Ceramics by N.H. Tennent
- Porcelain Repair & Restoration by N. Williams
- Blue & Yellow don't make green by M. Wilcox
- Repairing Pottery & Porcelain. A Practical Guide by L. Acton and P. McAuley
- Practical Ceramic Conservation by L Acton and N. Smith

## TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS:

On-line: Synchronous online video conference meetings shall feature, during which lectures and tutorials shall be presented, resulting in interaction between tutors and student. Ongoing direction and instruction shall follow, requiring reading, self-study and assignments to be submitted. The formative coursework shall account for 40% of the total mark.

Contact block session: Presented on-campus at the Institute's conservation laboratory, these sessions shall provide for practical execution and implementation of all remedial, interventive treatments from the theoretical content.

A final summative assessment shall conclude this *Introduction to Ceramics Conservation* module. The summative coursework shall account for 60% of the total mark.

The pass mark for Introduction to Ceramics Conservation is 55%

The credits attained upon successful completion of the Introduction to Ceramics Conservation shall be transferable towards completion of the Postgraduate Diploma "Technical Conservation Studies" for candidates meeting the enrolment prerequisites for the programme.

## COURSE DETAILS

Enrolment prerequisites

- Chemistry, at least on 1st year level OR an appropriate Chemistry bridging course, successfully completed.
- Conservation Theory & Skills module (CTS01PGD), successfully completed.

Course fee

R9 228.62 (VAT Exempt)

Prescribed textbooks

R1 260.87 (excl. VAT) (excl. shipping)

Tuition Tool-kit

R1 210.00 (excl. VAT, packaging, and shipping)

**Certificate of attainment & scored Course Report follow completion.**

*(Both digital and hard copy versions are typically furnished)*