DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS - ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

**CL5551 – WHO OWNS THE ROMAN PAST? – 2016**

**COURSE TUTOR:** Dr Zena Kamash (office IN148) zena.kamash@rhul.ac.uk

**TEACHING ARRANGEMENTS**

Spring Term ONLY - 10 weekly 2-hour classes

Day and time: Tuesdays 9-11

Place: Moore 0-07 (Royal Holloway, Egham Campus)

**COURSE SUMMARY**

This course will address the political and ethical questions surrounding Roman archaeology in the modern world. We will look at the discipline and its practices through a range of historical, theoretical and practical lenses. Topics for consideration will include: the history of the discipline; the impact of modern conflict; archaeology in national and international law; museums and museum display; the use of archaeology in historical fiction, film and TV. Throughout the course, you will be invited to think deeply about the material at hand and to view these thorny debates from a variety of angles, so that by the end of the course you have developed a fully-rounded picture of the issues, preparing you for how a modern archaeologist might handle these in the world.

**AIMS**

This course aims to introduce you to, and provide opportunities for you to explore:

* Issues and problems in the presentation and preservation of Roman archaeology
* Practical and theoretical aspects encountered when attempting to answer who owns the Roman past
* A critical awareness of your own encounters with, and research into, Roman archaeology

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

* Identify the key elements of debate over who owns the Roman past
* Discuss the role of archaeology in the modern world
* Critique the uses (and abuses) of archaeology in a variety of historical and modern contexts
* Make informed decisions about the future of Roman archaeology
* Discuss key players and theoretical positions within the debate

**COURSEWORK and ASSESSMENT**

***Final assessment*** is via a 5000-word essay on a topic of your choice. You will discuss your title and topic in advance with Dr Kamash and submit a formative essay plan of 1000 words.

You will also be expected to make regular contributions to classes via presentations and general group discussion.