# Theory and History of Cultural Heritage Conservation

## Prof. Melania Zanetti

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students to the importance of cultural heritage and the modes of conserving it by means of activities and interventions (study, prevention, maintenance and restoration) provided by the *Codice dei beni culturali e del paesaggio* (Code of cultural heritage and landscape).

Students will also analyse the development of restoration practices in their respective historical contexts, from antiquity to the present day, to the development of modern conservation theories.

At the end of the course, students will be able to assess how and to what extent the activities of study, prevention, maintenance and restoration contribute to the conservation of cultural heritage, and their impact on its constituent artefacts. They will also have acquired the requisite knowledge for planning and coordinating cultural heritage conservation projects, for conducting prevention activities in institutions (museums, libraries, archives etc.) and for interacting with professionals in charge of maintenance and restoration interventions.

Finally, they will be able to historically contextualise the restorations made over the centuries on works of art and monuments, often altering their form and meaning.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Theories of conservation*

– Objects of use, works of art, cultural heritage artefacts.

– Cultural heritage and material culture.

– Safeguarding and preserving cultural heritage.

– 19th-century restoration theories.

– 20th-century developments.

– Cesare Brandi’s *Theory of restoration.*

*History of conservation*

Conservation of works of art, archaeological conservation, architectural conservation, book and paper conservation: development of the restoration/conservation procedures from antiquity to the present day.

*Preservation activities: from study to conservation treatment*

– Preservation as regulated by the Italian Codice dei beni culturali e del paesaggio (Italian Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape): study, prevention, maintenance, conservation.

* Safeguarding historical information: the respect of the artefact’s authenticity.
* Conservation treatments: thoughts on procedure’s invasiveness and reversibility.

***READING LIST***

Study material will be provided by the lecturer in the form of:

– course notes (ppt slides available on Blackboard)

– course pack of excerpts from the following texts and/or further supplementary readings stated during the course

A. Bernardi , *Conservare opere d’arte. Il microclima negli ambienti museali,* Il Prato, Padova, 2003.

Bianchi Bandinelli Ranuccio, *Introduzione all’archeologia*, Laterza, Bari, 1976.

G. Carbonara, *Avvicinamento al restauro,* Liguori, Napoli, 1997.

S. Casiello, *La cultura del restauro, Teorie e fondatori*, Marsilio, Venezia, 1996.

M. Cordaro, *Restauro e tutela. Scritti scelti (1969-1999),* Associazione Ranuccio Bianchi Bandinelli, Roma, 2000.

D. Manacorda, *Prima lezione di archeologia,* Laterza, Bari, 2008.

P. Petraroia, *«Postfazione». In: Urbani Giovanni, Intorno al restauro*, a cura di Zanardi Bruno, Skira, Milano, 2000.

G. Urbani, *Intorno al restauro,* a cura di Zanardi Bruno, Skira, Milano, 2000.

J. Ruskin, *The seven lamps of architecture (trad. it. Le sette lampade dell’architettura),* Jaca Book, Milano, 1982.

L. Vlad Borrelli, *Restauro archeologico. Storia e materiali,* Viella, Roma, 2003

The following are also considered fundamental for the examination:

– the study of the book

M. Ciatti, *Appunti per un manuale di storia e teoria del restauro,* Edifir, Firenze, 2009 (only the following parts: Introduzione, pp. 11-19; Capitolo 1 completo; Capitolo 2 paragrafi 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7, 2.8; Capitolo 3 paragrafi  3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4; Capitolo 4 paragrafo 4.1; Capitolo 5 paragrafi 5.1, 5.4, 5.6, 5.7; Capitolo 6 paragrafi 6.3, 6.4.3; Capitolo 7 paragrafi 7.1, 7.2, 7.3)

– the complete reading of the work

C. Brandi, *Teoria del restauro. Roma: Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura,* Einaudi, Torino, 1963 (nuova ed. 2000).

In addition to the works already mentioned, for students who wish to deepen specific topics in relation with the preservation of cultural heritage, the following works are also reported:

C. Brandi, *Il restauro. Teoria e pratica,* a cura di M. Cordaro. Editori Riuniti, Roma, 1994.

D. Camuffo, *Microclimate for cultural heritage,* terza edizione. Elsevier, 2019.

A. Conti, *Restauro,* Jaca Book, Milano, 2001.

C. Federici , *A, B e C. Dialogo sulla conservazione di carte vecchie e nuove*, Carocci, Roma, 2005.

P. Marconi, *Dal piccolo al grande restauro. Colore, struttura, architettura*, Marsilio, Venezia, 1988.

P. Marconi, *Il restauro e l’architetto. Teoria e pratica in due secoli di dibattito,* Marsilio, Venezia, 1993.

B. Zanardi, *Conservazione,* *restauro e tutela*, Skira, Milano, 1999.

B. Zanardi, *Il restauro. Giovanni Urbani e Cesare Brandi due teorie a confronto,* Skira, Milano, 2009.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will involve 30 hours of lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam. During the exam, students will be assessed on their knowledge of the topics covered in lectures, with particular regard to the theoretical principles of cultural heritage conservation, conservation activities and interventions and the historic development of restoration practices.

Assessment criteria include the analytical and critical thinking skills developed by students through active participation in lectures and study, alongside their capacity for expression and use of suitable language for the topics in question.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The module has no prerequisites in terms of content.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.