

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2020

Materials, mechanisms of decay and stabilisation of artefacts 804 (THC 804)

Qualification	Postgraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Module credits	18.00
Programmes	MSocSci Tangible Heritage Conservation (Coursework)
Contact time	1 practical per week, 2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Historical and Heritage Studies
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

This module explores the physical, mechanical and chemical properties of organic, inorganic and synthetic base materials. It explores the technology and manufacturing processes involved in creating or assembling a variety of heritage objects. Each material type is explored in dedicated block sessions where individual objects are discussed according to material types and properties, potential risks and weaknesses identified, and appropriate storage, exhibition and handling guidelines examined. This module has both theoretical and practical components where students will learn to differentiate between material types, isolating different component parts of composite objects and learning about examination, documentation and record keeping in conservation.

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