Requirements for the Qualification

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1. A team-taught Core Seminar—or, in special cases, an approved alternative seminar—introducing students to issues in the study of antiquity and the premodern world, from a cross- and multidisciplinary perspective. Initiative students normally take the Core Seminar in the first year of study. Offered each year in the spring, the seminar is normally a team-taught class sponsored by two or more of the cooperating departments. There will be supplementary sessions in the Yale collections (e.g., the Yale Art Gallery or the Beinecke) and a required monthly colloquium component. Specific topics vary, but each seminar has significant interdisciplinary and comparative dimensions emphasizing the methodologies and techniques of the fields involved.

2. A minimum of three pre-approved courses, of which at least two must be seminar or seminar-type courses, chosen in consultation with a graduate coordinator of Archaia and the DGS of the student’s home department from courses offered across the University. These will in most cases be courses that also fill requirements for the student’s home department, and must be at a level that would normally be accepted for graduate study in that department.

3. A capstone project that demonstrates the student’s capacity to pursue independent, interdisciplinary research (the equivalent of 1 or 2 course units, depending on the scope), to be approved in consultation with a graduate coordinator of Archaia and the DGS of the student’s home department (e.g., an exhibition, documentary, research paper, conservation project).

4. Regular participation in events hosted by Archaia throughout the academic year, especially the monthly meetings of the Ancient Societies Workshop.

Students who fulfill these requirements will receive a letter from the DGS of the Classics department, indicating that they have completed the work for the qualification.
CORE SEMINAR

HSAR 641b / CLSS 845b / MDVL 520b / NELC 639b / RLST 633b, Images of Cult and Devotion in the Premodern World  Jacqueline Jung

This seminar explores the use of shaped materials, mostly figural but sometimes aniconic, in the formal rituals and private devotional practices of premodern people. Various religious traditions are represented, including ancient Near Eastern and Greek polytheism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and early and medieval Christianity. We look at both the distinctive features of image use in these cultures and the links among them, including the connection of sacred images to the dead, the numinous presence of relics, the importance of concealment and revelation, the instrumental power of votive objects, the role of images in sacrificial rites, and problems of idolatry and iconoclasm.