Introduction to Literary Papyrology

This seminar will introduce participants to a selection of the most important literary papyri and their special characteristics in different genres. It will also initiate novices in reading, identifying, and dating the bookhands represented in the papyri. A good knowledge of Greek is assumed. A more advanced class will follow in Hilary Term focusing on editorial technique and methodological aspects. Handouts will be available on Canvas. Because of their interactive nature, these classes will not be recorded.


Week 1. Introduction: Materials, Written Aspect, Conventions, Resources.
Week 2. The Earliest Literary Papyri.
Week 3. Literate Education in the Papyri.
Week 4. Homeric Papyri.
Week 5. Dramatic Papyri.
Week 6. Papyri of Lyric and Hellenistic Poetry.
Week 7. Papyri of Prose Literature.
Week 8. The Ancient Codex.