

## **Introduction to Epigraphy**

This short lecture series provides an introduction to the study of epigraphy in the ancient Mediterranean, with a focus on inscriptions in Greek and Latin. It will explore how this material can be approached as historical sources, complementing or supplementing the historiographical record of the literary tradition, and also far more extensively providing insights into areas of ancient life we would otherwise have little idea of: the nature of political and social power, the organisation of religious and cultic activity, the movement of wealth, attitudes to death and commemoration, the role and function of textual display, and the sheer diversity of the forms which all these themes could assume. Week 1 provides a general introduction to the subject, while weeks 2-4 will look closely at a variety of examples according to different themes. Knowledge of Greek and Latin would be helpful but is not essential; undergraduates and graduates are welcome. Handouts will be provided.

Week 1: What is epigraphy?

Week 2: Power and authority

Week 3: The epigraphy of religion

Week 4: Commemoration and memory