

Dr. Theodora B. Kopestonsky

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Research Interests:

Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology, Ritual Practice, Coroplastic Arts, Water in a Sacred Context, Women and Gender in Antiquity, Corinthian Studies, Greek/Latin/Archaeology pedagogy, Scent and Religious Experience

Education:

- The State University of New York at Buffalo, Department of Classics, Buffalo, NY
 - Ph.D., June 2009
Thesis: *Kokkinovrysi: A Classical Shrine to the Nymphs at Corinth*
Adviser: Professor Bradley A. Ault
 - M.A., June 2003
Project: *Within These Walls: The Life Cycle of Children, Women, and Family in the Aristocratic Athenian Household in the Fifth Century BC*
- University of Evansville, Department of Archaeology and Art History, Evansville, IN
 - B.A. (*summa cum laude*), May 2000
Major: Classical Archaeology; Minor: French
- American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece
 - Regular Member in the Graduate Studies Program, 2005-2006
 - Associate Student Member, 2006-2008

Academic Employment:

- Wabash College
 - Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of Classics 2024-Present
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 - Distinguished Lecturer 2020-2024
 - Senior Lecturer 2017-2020
 - Lecturer 2011-2017
- Columbus State Community College: Adjunct Professor 2009-2011
- Denison College: Adjunct Professor 2010
- Buffalo State College: Adjunct Professor 2009
- State University of New York at Buffalo: Teaching Assistant 2000-2005

Teaching Experience:

- Wabash College, Department of Classics, Crawfordsville, IN
 - CLA/ART 103: Greek Art and Archaeology
 - CLA 111: Greek Myth and Film
 - CLA 115/HIS 200: Introduction to Greece
 - CLA 213: Sex, Gender, and Power in ancient Greece
 - CLA 400: Senior Seminar (Greek Ritual Practice)
 - GRE 101-102: Beginning Greek I-II
 - GRE 301-302: Advanced Greek
 - LAT 301: Advanced Latin

- University of Tennessee, Department of Classics, Knoxville, TN
 - CLAS 111: Elementary Latin I
 - CLAS 112: Elementary Latin II
 - CLAS 121: Beginning Greek
 - CLAS 150: Transitional Latin
 - CLAS 221: Early Greek Mythology
 - CLAS 232: Art and Archaeology of Greece and Rome
 - CLAS 251: Intermediate Latin I (Prose: Livy or Caesar)
 - CLAS 252: Intermediate Latin II (Poetry: Ovid or Vergil)
 - CLAS 253: Greek and Latin Literature in Translation
 - CLAS 254: (new course build) Greek/Roman Epic in Translation
 - CLAS 256: (new course build) Ancient World Reimagined (Myth & Film)
 - CLAS 264: Intermediate Greek Poetry (Homer)
 - CLAS 381: Greek Civilization
 - CLAS 384: Gender & Sexuality in Ancient Greece & Rome
 - CLAS 401: Advanced Greek (Prose: Herodotus & Xenophon)
 - CLAS 436: Cities & Sanctuaries of Greek & Roman World
 - CLAS 443: Archaeology of Greece
 - CLAS 444: Archaeology of Etruria & Rome
 - Beginning/Review Latin for MARCO Institute
- Columbus State Community College, Department of Humanities, Columbus, OH
 - HUM 222: Classical Mythology
- Denison University, First Year Program, Granville, OH
 - FYS 102: Greek Gods and Cults
- Buffalo State College, Department of Art and Art History, Buffalo, NY
 - FAR 355: Roman Art and Culture
- State University of New York at Buffalo, Department of Classics, Buffalo, NY
 - CL 210: Women & the Ancient World
 - CL 205: Heroes
 - CL 113: Mythology and Religion
 - LAT 101 & 102: Elementary Latin I & II
 - CL 151: Medical Terminology

Papers Presented:

- American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Tea Talks
 - *Caves, Springs, and Stelai: Natural and Constructed Landscapes for Nymphs*, March 2008.
 - *Kokkinovrysi: A Corinthian Shrine for the Nymphs?*, May 2007.
- Archaeological Institute of America, Annual Meeting
 - *The Coroplast's Perspective: Finding Reflections of Daily Life in Greek Terracottas*, (New Orleans, LA), January 2023.
 - *Adventures in Group Work in the Classics Classroom*, jointly accepted with the Society of Classical Studies, virtual conference, January 2021
 - *...And Some Figurines: Recovering Terracotta Assemblages from the Potters' Quarter*, (San Diego, CA), January 2019.
 - *The Most Popular Girl at the Shrine: Reconsidering the Classical Corinthian Standing Female Figurine*, (Toronto, ON), January 2017
 - *Little Gifts: Dedications at the Sacred Spring in Corinth*, (San Francisco, CA), January 2016
 - *Locating Lost Gifts: Terracottas as Evidence for Ephemeral Offerings*, (Seattle, WA), January 2013.

- *A Villa Complex at Kokkinovrysi: Connecting the Roman Buildings on the Western Edge of Corinth*, (Anaheim, CA), January 2010.
- *Out of the Cave and into the City: Evidence for the Cult of the Nymphs at Corinth*, (Philadelphia, PA), January 2009.
- *Dancing Outside the City: The Kokkinovrysi Figurine Deposit*, (Chicago, IL), January 2008.
- Association of Ancient Historians, Annual Meeting
 - with Lee. L. Brice, *Teaching General Education Classes with Material Culture: Coins*, (Urbana-Champaign: Virtual), May 2021
- Classical Association of the Middle, West, and South, Annual Meeting
 - *Building Memories: Engagement with Modern Monuments*, (Champaign, IL), April 2025
 - *Entangled Communities: Multidimensional Use of Nymph Shrines in Ancient Greece*, (St. Louis, MO), April 2024
 - *Repairing Fragments: Reconciling Archaeological Practice and Lecture in the Classroom*, (Lincoln, NE), March 2019
 - *Never out of Style: Teaching Latin Love Poetry with Taylor Swift*, (Kitchener, Ontario), April 2017
 - *Smells at the Sanctuary: Scents as Offerings to the Gods*, (Boulder, CO), March 2015.
 - *Infiltrating the Empire: The Cult of the Nymphs in the Roman World*, (Waco, TX), April 2014.
 - *Gods in the Neighborhood: Reality and Invention in the Shrine of Pan and the Nymphs at Phyle*, (Iowa City, IA), April 2013.
 - *Finding the Forgotten Offerings: Evidence for Ribbons, Flowers, Cakes, and Other Ephemeral Dedications*, (Baton Rouge, LA), March 2012.
- International Conferences
 - *Nymphscapes: Watery Sanctuaries and Human Interaction in the Greek World*, Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions conference, *Godscapes: Ritual, Belief and the Natural World in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond*, (Edinburgh, UK), June 2023.
 - *From Ancient Greece to Hollywood: Amazons in Wonder Woman (2017)*, AIMS annual conference: The Kaleidoscope of Antiquity: Shifting Perspectives on the Ancient Mediterranean World and Its Modern Receptions, (America/UK/EU/Australasia-online), December 2022.
 - *Dancers, Riders, and Standing Ladies: Leading Figures in Terracotta Assemblages at Small Corinthian Shrines*, *Terracottas in the Mediterranean Through Time II*, (Haifa, Israel), March 2018.
 - *Offerings and Ritual at Corinthian Springs*, HYDRΩMED: Water Cult and Culture in the Mediterranean World of the 1st Millennium BCE, (Athens, Greece), July 2015.
 - *Cueing Behavior: Figurines at Roadside Shrines in Corinth*, *Terracotta Figurines in the Greek and Roman Mediterranean* (Izmir, Turkey), June 2007.
- University of Tennessee Latin Day
 - *Defigo Eos: How to Curse in Ancient Rome*, 2023.
 - *Pop Music and Latin Poetry: Re-imagining Latin Verse*, 2017.
 - *Cave Nympham: The Role of the Nymphs in the Roman World*, 2011, 2015, 2019, 2022.
 - *Lightening, Livers, and Gobbling Geese: Divination in the Roman World*, 2014, 2016, 2018.
 - *Romancing Romans: Love and Marriage in the Roman World*, 2012.

Panels Organized:

- *Teaching in the Wild: Beyond the Traditional Classroom*, colloquium co-organized with Lynne Kvapil (Butler University), CAMWS, Annual Meeting, Champaign, IL, April 2025.

- *Finding a New Beat: Teaching Latin Poetry with Popular Music*, Colloquium Co-organized with Justin Arft (University of Tennessee), CAMWS, Annual Meeting, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, April 2017.
- *Silent Participants: Terracottas as Ritual Objects*, Colloquium Co-organized with Caitlin Barrett (Cornell University) and Clarissa Blume (University of Heidelberg), AIA, Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA), January 2012.

Invited Lectures:

- *Small but Mighty: Terracottas in Corinthian Ritual Practice*, keynote lecture for the 13th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Classics Research Conference, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, March 2025.
- *Small Things, Big Connections: Terracotta Figurines in Ancient Greek Life*, Wabash College, January 2024.
- *Origin Story: Contextualizing the Nymphs in the Ancient Greek World*, co-keynote lecture paired with Madeline Miller (NYT best-selling author) for Hollins University Classics Symposium, *They Called Me Nymph: The Archaeology and Fiction of Lesser Female Divinities*, November 2021.
- *Smelly Sanctuaries: Archaeological Evidence for Odor as Offering at Corinth & Beyond*, Gladys Callahan Vocci Justice Lecture, AIA/Baltimore Chapter, September 2020.
- *The Sensual Experience of Graeco-Roman Sacrifice*, Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association Annual Conference, Tennessee Classical Association, Franklin, TN, November 2019.
- *Classical Archaeological Techniques and Practices*, Skype Lecture for Dr. Chiu's CLAS 095 (Ancient World Then and Now), University of Vermont, November 2019.
- *City & Countryside: The Greek Cult of the Nymphs at Corinth*, AIA/Huntsville Chapter, October 2017.
- *Life in Miniature: Terracotta Figurines in Ancient Greece*, University of Alabama, Huntsville, October 2017.
- *Unearthing the Ephemeral: Archaeological Evidence for Sacred Experiences in the Greek World*, Austin College, March 2015.
- *Experiencing Ritual: Understanding the Ancient Greek Sanctuary through the Senses*, Georgia Watkins Lecture in Classical Studies, Butler University, November 2014.
- *Roman Sacrifice and Divination*, Valparaiso University, February 2014.
- *Sensing the Sacred: Ritual and Experience in the Classical Greek Sanctuary*, AIA/East Tennessee Chapter, November 2012.

Publications:

- Under review. "Recovering Terracotta Figurine Assemblages from the Shrines in the Potters' Quarter and Corinth," in *Potters' Quarter: Corinthian Context Revisited* (Hesperia Supplement), eds. K. Harrington and A. F. Ward.
- In press. "Nymphscapes: Watery Sanctuaries and Human Interaction in the Greek World" and will appear in *Godscapes: Ritual, Belief, and the Natural World in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond* (Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religion 6), eds. S. Blakely and B. Wickkiser, Atlanta: Lockwood Press.
- 2021. "Teaching Evidence Use and Interpretation with Coins," *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia* 30: 24-46. (co-written with Lee L. Brice)
- 2019. "Offerings, Ritual, and Water: The Case of the Sacred Spring at Corinth," in *Ancient Waterlands*, eds. Betsey A. Robinson, Sophie Bouffier, and Iván Fumadó Ortega, Presses Universitaires de Provence, pp. 51-66.

- 2019. "Don't Borrow Money from Catullus...or Rihanna," *Sententiae Antiquae* blog, 15 August 2019, <https://sententiaeantiquae.com/2019/08/15/dont-borrow-money-from-catullus-or-rihanna/>
- 2019. "Never Out of Style: Teaching Latin Poetry with Popular Music," *Teaching Classical Languages* 10.2, pp. 71-100.
<https://tcl.camws.org/sites/default/files/KopestonskyTCL10.2.pdf>
- 2018. "Locating Lost Gifts: Terracottas as Evidence for Ephemeral Offerings," *Journal of Greek Archaeology* 3, pp. 245-268.
- 2016. "The Greek Cult of the Nymphs at Corinth," *Hesperia* 86.4, pp. 711-777.
- 2016. "Marriage" and "Sexuality" in *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. eds. Eric Orlin, Lisbeth Fried, Michael Satlow and Jennifer Knust. (co-written with Erin Darby)
- 2015. "Cueing Behavior: Figurines at Roadside Shrines in Corinth" in *Figurines de Terre Cuites en Méditerranée Grecque et Romaine, Volume 2: Iconographie et Contexte*. eds. Ergün Lafli and Arthur Muller, Septentrion Press, pp. 407-416.
- 2015. "Silent Participants: Terracottas as Ritual Objects (Actes de la réunion Silent Participants Philadelphie janvier 2012)" in *Figurines Grecques en Contexte*. eds. Stéphanie Huysecom-Haxhi and Arthur Muller, Septentrion Press. (co-edited the conference proceedings with Caitlin Barrett and Clarissa Blume).

Works in Progress:

- "Kokkinovrysi: The Use, Finds, and Role of a Small Corinthian Shrine" (*Hesperia* Supplement)
- "Nymphscapes: Watery Sanctuaries and Human Interaction in the Greek World" (in the edited volume for the conference proceedings)
- "Mastro Cave: The Terracottas" (co-written chapter with Alex Nagel in edited volume)
- "Feta at Corinth: An intrepid mouse's adventure" (children's book)

Archaeological Field Experience and Projects:

- The Aitolokarnania and Lefkas Cave Cult Landscape Project, Greece 2016-2020
 - Member of Research team (terracotta figurines)
- Corinth Excavations, Greece SU 2006 & 2007
 - Trench Supervisor: Panaghia and Nezi Fields
- Kastro Kallithea Project, Thessaly, Greece SU 2005
 - Member of the survey team, University of Alberta
- Chester Amphitheater Project, Chester, England SU 2002
 - Member of excavation team
- Poggio Civitate, Murlo, Italy
 - Trench supervisor SU 2001
 - Field School member, University of Evansville SU 1999

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards:

- SCS Collegiate Teaching Award 2021
- Kress Publication Fellowship 2017-2018
 - Book Project: Kokkinovrysi
- HYDRQMED: EU International Project on Greek Water Works
 - Research Member 2014-2016
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 - Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award, Finalist 2016
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville (College of Arts and Sciences)

- Lecturer Excellence in Teaching Award 2015
- American School of Classical Studies at Athens
 - The Henry S. Robinson Corinth Research Fellowship 2010
 - Doreen C. Spitzer Advanced Fellowship 2007-2008
 - Dorothy B. and Homer A. Thompson Advanced Fellowship 2006-2007
 - John William White Fellowship (Regular Program) 2005-2006
- The State University of New York at Buffalo
 - Humanities Institute Dissertation Fellowship 2008-2009
 - Graduate Excellence in Teaching Award 2005
 - Hellenic Scholarship, Department of Classics 2005
 - Graduate Student Professional Development Award 2003

Academic Affiliations & Positions:

- American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Managing Committee 2022-Present
 - Committee on the Summer Session 2025-2029
 - Committee on Committees member & co-chair (2023-4) 2022-2024
 - Ad hoc search committee (secretary) 2022
- American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Alumni Association 2008-Present
 - Council Member 2018-2023
- Archaeological Institute of America 2001-Present
 - Vice-President of the East Tennessee Society 2013-2014
 - Presenter, Archaeology Day 2013-2023
- Association of Ancient Historians 2020-2022
- Association of Coroplastic Studies (formerly CSIG) 2008-Present
 - Secretary 2011-2015
- CAMWS (Classical Association for the Middle, West, and South) 2011-Present
 - History of CAMWS committee 2017-2020
- Society for Classical Studies 2019-Present
 - Committee on Contingent Faculty 2020-2024
- Society for the Study of Ancient Mediterranean Religions 2013-Present
- Women's Classical Caucus 2015-Present

Service to the College:

- Wabash College
 - Faculty Development Committee 2025-Present
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 - Director, Beginning and Intermediate Latin Teaching 2014-2024
 - Director, Latin Placement Exam 2014-2024
 - Co-liaison with Tennessee Secondary Schools 2019-2022
 - Co-mentor to Classics Lecturers 2020-2024
 - Department of Classics, Lecturer Search committee member 2015, 2016, 2022
 - Graduate Student Teaching Supervisor (CLAS 232) 2016-17, 2019-22
 - Senior Honors Thesis Advisor 2015
 - Cross-Dressing in Greek Drama: Ancient Perspectives on Gender Performance

Community Outreach:

- UTK Library: For Your Reference/Reviewer 2 (online presentation) 2021
 - "The Archaeology of Religion" with Erin Darby (UTK: Religious Studies)
- UTK Latin Day Presenter (High School Outreach) 2011-2023

- Zoom Visitor to Clinton Elementary School, Columbus City School, OH 2018, 2020
 - “Archaeology & Archaeologists: Who are they? What do they do?”
- Archaeological Institute of America/ East Tennessee Chapter, Archaeology Day, at McClung Museum (UTK) 2013-18, 22-23
 - *Pleasing the Nymphs: Figurines, Plaques, and Other Appropriate Gifts*
 - *Scents and Touch at Ancient Workshops*
 - *Smell it! Scents & Perfumes in Ancient Greece and Rome*