Students in this class will participate in the research of ancient Greek and Roman art on permanent display in the Indiana University Art Museum in order to produce materials for The Colors of Classical Art exhibition, scheduled to open in Fall 2014. The uses and roles of color in ancient Greek and Roman art are rarely discussed in art history classes, in large part due to problems of survival. The rich tradition of ancient painting is now largely lost to us, as are the vivid pigments that once covered white marble statues. The first half of the course will explore the scholarship surrounding the study of color in ancient art. We will look at a range of material, including marble sculpture, metalwork, pottery, glass, textiles, and jewelry. In the second half of the course, students will select objects in the art museum for further investigation. Students will be responsible producing labels, wall text, and didactic materials that will be incorporated into the museum display. This part of the course will involve collaborative work.

This course is particularly well suited for students majoring in the humanities who are interested in working with objects in a museum setting.