

New Course: Nazi-Looted Art: Law and Provenance* Research

Call for candidates for an interdisciplinary course in English

Time: Fall semester, 2021-2022. Wednesdays, afternoon/evening.

The course will be held via **Zoom**.

The course is designed for 3rd-4th year and graduate students in law and to graduate students in the humanities and art-history faculties.

The course:

For the first time in Israel, an academic course dedicated to the legal and historical issues of Nazi-looted art will take place. The course is a collaboration between TAU and University of Bonn, Germany. It will be attended by law and art-history students from Tel-Aviv University as well as from the University of Bonn in Germany.

Over 75 years have passed since the end of WWII and the issue of Nazi-looted art is still very much present and even growing. Museums and private owners worldwide and in Israel still hold artworks looted from Jews during the Holocaust which have not yet been restituted. In 1998 the Washington Conference set up principles for the restitution of artworks lost during the years 1933-1945. The course will review these principles and how they are implemented (or not) in several countries. The course will set up the theoretical basis as well as the practical way in which the art trade, the legal system and claimants operate. Several case studies will be presented. The course will deal with two primary disciplines: provenance research and the legal framework for restitution. We will discuss what can be considered a "fair and just solution" as stipulated in the Washington Principles. The course will provide historical context and research methods, and discuss their interaction with the legal issues raised.

The course is intended for students who are interested in the reciprocal relations between law, art and history, taught through the lens of an existing and very much relevant issue. The students will gain a fresh perspective on the interaction of transnational public, private and civil-society actors and the interplay between law and diplomacy among states.

Academic advisor, Tel-Aviv Law Faculty: Prof. Leora Bilsky.

Academic advisors, Bonn Law Faculty: Prof. Dr. Matthias Weller and Prof. Dr. Christoph Zuschlag.

Academic Moderator: Eyal Dolev. Teaching assistant: Niv Goldberg.

The course will include several guest lectures by leading experts from museums, auction houses, NGOs, and experts in art, provenance research, and art and cultural property law. The course will be held (via Zoom) on Wednesday evenings.

Israeli students will be required to write a final paper, in English, that will analyze an existing case based on the theory and principles discussed. Law students will be expected to focus on legal aspects, and art-history students will be expected to focus on art-historical/provenance issues. Selected papers may be chosen for publication by the Minerva Center for Human Rights. The course will be regarded as an English course for law students, and will credit 2 academic points. Participation in the Zoom classes is mandatory.

To apply by July 21, 2021:

- Please send a short email, not more than 10 lines long including a short biography of yourself and briefly describing your interest in the course.
- The application should be sent by email (no attachments) to Mrs. Rachel Klagsbrun (klags@tauex.tau.ac.il), no later than July 21, 2021.
- The number of participants may be limited and therefore interviews may be held.

* Provenance is the ownership history of an artwork.