ARCH 0420 Archaeologies of the Greek Past

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Course website: http://proteus.brown.edu/greekpast2014/Home
Course blog: http://blogs.brown.edu/arch-0420-2014-spring-s01/
Meets: MWF 1:00-1:50pm, Rhode Island Hall 108

Course description:
From Bronze Age palaces to the Acropolis in Athens and on the trail of Alexander the Great, this course explores the ancient Greek world through archaeology—using art, architecture, and everyday objects to learn about ancient Greek society, from the mysterious to the mundane. It also considers how we experience ancient Greece today, including questions about archaeological practice, the antiquities trade, and cultural heritage.

Prerequisites: None. Students are responsible for doing the assigned reading before class and hand in their assignments on time. Students are also expected to comply with Brown’s Code of Student conduct (http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Office_of_Student_Life/judicial_affairs/randr/conduct_standards.html).

Evaluation scheme:
Midterm 15%
Final exam 30%
Group project- Time mapper project 15%
3 Writing assignments 10% each, 30%
Blog entries and comments 10%

Exams:
- Midterm (February 28). For the midterm students will be examined on the taught material up to the end of Week 5. The midterm will be 50 minutes long and will consist of image recognition questions, multiple choice questions and questions that require short answers.
- Final exam (Date TBA). The final exam will be cumulative and will examine the material taught throughout the semester. It will be 1 hour and 30 minutes and will consist of a section on image recognition, short questions and an essay question.

Writing Assignments:
- Writing assignment #1: Political propaganda and the built environment in classical Athens (Due Feb 21) In this essay students can choose to focus on a specific building, a category of buildings (civic buildings, temples, fountains etc), an area (the Athenian Agora, the Acropolis, the Kerameikos cemetery etc) or the building program of Classical Athens to examine how ancient Athenians conveyed political and social messages that informed their identity and political ideology through the built environment. The essay should be 3-4 pages long (1.5 space, 12 fonts).
- Writing assignment #2: What can houses tell us about ancient Greek society? (Due March 14). In this essay students will explore aspects of ancient Greek society...
based on the archaeology of ancient Greek houses. Students might choose to focus on social or economic activities, the role of social groups within the house or discuss recent approaches to the study of ancient houses. The essay should be 3-4 pages long (1.5 space, 12 fonts). For more information check the course’s wiki.

- **Writing assignment # 3: Interpret an ancient Greek burial** (Due April 18). Students will choose a case study of a published burial and study its location, architecture, finds, position of the dead and surrounding landscape and offer an interpretation of the symbolism, meaning and objectives of the burial. Period-specific mortuary practices, social structure, political formation, views on death and afterlife must be considered. The chosen case study can belong to any period from Minoan to Roman. The essay should be 3-4 pages long (1.5 space, 12 fonts). For more information check the course’s wiki.

**Group project: Time mapper**

Students will work on groups for this assignment. Groups will be formed in Week 4 and each group will decide on a category of objects, structures or group of people that they wish to map their location using the open lab Time mapper [http://timemapper.okfnlabs.org/](http://timemapper.okfnlabs.org/). Before mapping, students must have gathered all necessary information and images of their objects/buildings that will accompany their geographic location. The aim of the assignment is for students to have the opportunity to create a narrative of ancient Greece with a geographic component and share this with a wider audience. Groups will spend the class on Friday March 14 to bring together the information and material they will have be compiling the previous weeks and start mapping. The final product should be ready by Friday March 31.

**Class blog**

This course will use a Brown blog ([http://blogs.brown.edu/arch-0420-2014-spring-s01/](http://blogs.brown.edu/arch-0420-2014-spring-s01/)) as a platform of communication between the students of the class as well as with the Brown community and the general public. The blog is also meant as an engaging way for students to develop their writing skills and experience how their writing can be powerful, interesting to others and influential. Students will take turns and post some of the main ideas and discussions during workshop Fridays in class. In weeks with no workshop, students will have the opportunity to discuss aspects of ancient Greek archaeology and art based on the week’s topic, present their favorite artifacts or create a new theme relevant to the class. All students are encouraged to read and respond weekly to their fellow students’ posts.

**Course organization:**

Mondays and Wednesdays include mostly lectures on the main themes examined in the course. Mondays usually are dedicated to a chronological overview of a specific theme, for example religion in the ancient world, and Wednesdays are spent pursuing a more in depth analysis of
the week’s theme, focusing on case studies and specific example. Most Fridays are organized as workshops in which we meet to discuss and debate on fundamental archaeological ideas, major scholarly controversies and try to interpret and reconstruct the past from the study of ancient objects and archaeological remains. Friday discussions are posted on the class blog weekly and students are expected to contribute to the blog by posts and/or comments on a weekly basis.

**Required texts (on order at the Brown Bookstore):**


Optional:  
Susan E. Alcock and Robin Osborne, eds., *Classical Archaeology* (2007)

The rest of you weekly readings are available on the wiki’s private forum and on canvas (http://proteus.brown.edu/greekpast14private/Home)

**Week 1 Between Past and Present**

*Wednesday, January 22*  The Ancient Greek world and us. Why should we care?  

*Friday, January 24*  Workshop #1 From Indian Jones to modern archaeological investigation.  
A. Snodgrass, ‘What is Classical Archaeology?’, 1 pp. 4-29.  

**Week 2 The rise of complex societies - Part I.**

*Monday, January 27*  The Cyclades  
Wednesday, January 29 : The Minoans


Friday, January 31  Workshop # 1 The mysteries of Cycladic idols


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**Week 3  The rise of complex societies - Part II.**

Monday, February 3 : From Minoans to Mycnaeans


Wednesday, February 5 : The Mycnaeans


Friday, February 7 : Workshop #2  The rise and fall of civilizations

C. Thomas and C. Conant, *Citadel to City-State*: The Transformation of Greece, 1200-700 BCE, Chapter 1.


Week 4  The rise of the Polis

Monday, February  10

Wednesday, February  12  The Classical city
S. Alcock and R. Osborne (eds), *Classical Archaeology*, Chapter 5a.

Friday, February 14  Workshop #3 The city state of Athens

Writing assignment  #1: Politics and the built environment in classical Athens (Due Feb 21.)

Week 5  The making of Empires: From Alexander the Great to Rome

Monday, February 17  NO CLASS

Wednesday, February  19: The Hellenistic World
Friday, February 21 Greeks under Roman rule


C.K. Williams, ‘Roman Corinth as a Commercial Center’, 31-46.

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**Week 6 The art and archaeology of ancient Greek religion**

Monday, February 24


Wednesday, February 26


Friday, February 28 *Midterm*

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**Week 7 The Greek Home**

Monday, March 3


Wednesday, March 5


Friday, March 7 Workshop #4 on the role of women in ancient Greek society.


http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/jun/01/genetics.sciencenews

**Writing assignment #2 What can houses tell us about ancient Greek society? (Due March 14)**

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**Week 8 Production & trade**

Monday, March 10: Production


J. Boardman, *The history of Greek vases, pottery, painters and pictures*, pp. TBA.

Wednesday, March 12: Trade & Colonization


Friday, March 14: Time mapper project group session

*Time mapper projects are due to March 31*

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**Week 9 The ancient Greek countryside**

Monday, March 17


A. Mersch, ‘Urbanization of the Attic countryside from the late 8th to the 6th centuries, pp. 45-62.
Wednesday, March 19

S. Alcock and R. Osborne, *Classical Archaeology*, Chapter 4a.


Friday, March 21 Workshop #5 Survey archaeology and the Greek countryside


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**Week 10 Spring Recess**

Monday, March 22- Sunday, March 30

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**Week 11 Warfare in the ancient Greek world**

Monday, March 31


H. van Wees, *Greek Warfare, Myths & Realities*, Chapter 4.

Wednesday, April 2


Friday, April 4 Workshop #6 The representation of warfare in ancient Greece


**Week 12 Death and mortuary practices in the ancient Greek world**

**Monday, April 7**


**Wednesday, April 9**


Friday, April 11: Workshop #7 How to read a burial


**Writing assignment # 3: Interpret a grave context (Due April 18)**

**Week 13 Festivals, games and parties in the ancient Greek world.**

**Monday, April 14: Cults and religious festivals**


**Wednesday, April 16: The Olympic and Panathenaic Games**


Friday, April 18 Workshop: #8 Feasting and commensality in the ancient Greek world


**Week 14 The ancient world in a modern perspective**

Monday, April 21


Times magazine on privatizing Greece’s antiquities
http://world.time.com/2014/01/18/can-privatization-save-the-treasures-of-ancient-greece/

Wednesday, April 23: No class

Friday, April 25: No class

**Week 15 The ancient world in a modern perspective part II**

Monday, April 28: The battle of the Parthenon marbles


Wednesday, April 30: Revision & Final thoughts.