The Archaeology of Neolithic and Bronze Age Greece

Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM.
Psychology 206

Instructor: Professor Robert Schon
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office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM and by appointment.

Course Description: This class will examine the archaeology of the Greek Mainland, the Aegean islands and Crete from the arrival of humans until the end of the Late Bronze Age. Particular attention will be paid to the emergence and florescence of palace-centered societies of Minoan Crete and Mycenaean Greece. In addition to learning the material record of the region, students will hone their skills in critical thinking by exploring the theoretical approaches that inform the way archaeologists working in the area reconstruct the past. Special emphasis will be place on ‘Current Issues’ in Aegean scholarship.

Required Texts:
2) Introduction to Aegean Art, by Philip P. Betancourt.

Additional Readings:
A number of articles will be available on D2L. http://d2l.arizona.edu
In addition, we will be using Professor Jeremy Rutter’s website: http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/
You can find it easily by typing the words Rutter and Aegean into Google.

Grades: Your Grades will be based on a midterm exam (20%), a final exam (20%), Ten short (ca. 1 page) response papers (10%) , a term-paper (25%) and attendance & class participation (25%).

Turnitin: See below for turnitin.com policies.
The Class ID is 3747659.
The password is Mycenae.

Please sign up as soon as possible and post your papers. Difficulty signing up is not a valid excuse for late work. Response papers should be submitted in hard copy.

Written Assignments
Response Papers: Each student will write 10 short essays (250-300 words) in response to a question posed in class or reacting to select assigned articles. In these latter essays, you will contextualize the subject, summarize the main points of the article including its thesis and evidence, and provide your opinion of it. You will then help lead a discussion of the topic with the class. Responses must be turned in PRIOR to the class for which that reading is due.

Term Papers: You are required to submit a research paper. The paper will be a critical examination of a current issue in Aegean Archaeology. The assignment consists of 4 parts, each due at a different date: 1) A brief explanation of your topic and the problem you wish to address (200-300 words), due February 3. 2) A detailed outline of your essay, including an argumentative thesis, an abstract, and an annotated bibliography with at least 10 scholarly references, due February 22. 3) The paper itself, due on April 12: 2,400 words for undergraduates, 3,000 for graduate students. You will have one opportunity to revise the paper after it has received a preliminary grade. All final revisions are due on or before April 28.

543b: All students taking this course for graduate credit will also be assigned extra readings and will write a 1200 word book review. We will meet separately to discuss this assignment in detail.
Thursday, January 13

**Introduction and Syllabus Review**

Tuesday, January 18

Read:

**Historiography and the Natural Setting**

*Cambridge Companion* Ch. 1;

“The Natural Environment and Resources,” Ch. 2 of *The Aegean Bronze Age*, by O. Dickinson (D2L);

Graduate Students:

“The Cretan Environment: Abused or Just Misunderstood?” by J. Moody (D2L).

Thursday, January 20

**Earliest Prehistory: The Paleolithic and Mesolithic**

Read:

“The Old Stone Age: How It All Began,” by C. Runnels and P. M. Murray (D2L);

“Ancient Mariners on Crete?” by T. Strasser;

Rutter Website: Lesson 1.

Tuesday, January 25

Read:

**The Neolithic: Sites and Material Culture**

“The New Stone Age,” by C. Runnels and P. M. Murray (D2L);

Rutter Website: Lesson 2.

Graduate Students:

“The Greek Neolithic: A New Review,” by J.-P. Demoule & C. Perles (D2L);

Thursday, January 27

Read:

**The Neolithic: Island Colonization**

“Colonization and Configuration in the Insular Neolithic of the Aegean,” by C. Broodbank (D2L);

“Migrant Farmers and the Neolithic Colonization of Crete,” by C. Broodbank & T. Strasser (D2L).

Tuesday, February 1

Read:

**The Neolithic: Subsistence Economies and Social Structure**

“The Development of Agriculture and Pastoralism in Greece: When, How, Who and What?” by P. Halstead (D2L);

Graduate Students:


Thursday, February 3

Read:

**Neolithic Figurines (Discussion)**

*Paper Topics Due*

“A Feminist Boomerang: The Great Goddess of Greek Prehistory,” by L. Talalay (D2L);

“Miniaturism and Dimensionality,” Ch. 2 of *Neolithic Figurines* by D. Bailey (D2L).

Tuesday, February 8

Read:

**Early Minoan Material Culture and Burials**

*Cambridge Companion* Ch. 4;

*Aegean Art* Ch. 3.

Thursday, February 10

Read:

**Early Minoan Settlements (Discussion)**

Excerpt from *Myrtos: An Early Bronze Age Settlement in Crete*, by P. Warren (D2L);

“The Settlement at Fournou Korifi Myrtos and Aspects of Early Minoan Social Organization in Minoan Society,” by T. Whitelaw (D2L);

Rutter Website: Lesson 5.

Tuesday, February 15

Read:

**Early Cycladic Settlements, Tombs, and Material Culture**

*Cambridge Companion* Ch. 3;

*Aegean Art* Ch. 2;

Rutter Website: Lesson 4.

Thursday, February 17

Read:

**Early Cycladic Figurines (Discussion)**

Tuesday, February 22

**Introduction to the Early Bronze Age of the Mainland**

**Abstract and Annotated Bibliography Due**

**Read:**

*Cambridge Companion* Ch. 2;  
*Aegean Art* Ch. 4;  
Rutter Website: Lessons 3 and 8.

**Graduate Students:**

“Art and World of the Early Bronze Age,” by M. Wiencke (D2L).

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Thursday, February 24

**The Site of Lerna**

**Read:**

“The Early Helladic II Corridor House: Development and Form,” by J. Shaw (D2L).  
“Ox and Plow in the Early Bronze Age Aegean,” by D. Pullen (D2L).

**Graduate Students:**


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Tuesday, March 1

Review for Midterm

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Thursday, March 3

Midterm Exam

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Tuesday, March 8

**Protopalatial Crete**

*Cambridge Companion* Ch. 5;  
Rutter Website: Lesson 11.

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Thursday, March 10

**Neopalatial Crete: The Palaces**

*Cambridge Companion* Chs. 6 & 7;  
*Aegean Art* Ch. 5;  
Rutter Website: Lesson 12.

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Tuesday, March 15

SPRING BREAK

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Thursday, March 17

SPRING BREAK

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Tuesday, March 22

**The Middle Bronze Age Outside of Crete**

“Greece and the Aegean Islands in the Middle Bronze Age,” by J. Caskey (D2L).

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Thursday, March 24

**The Minoan Thalassocracy**

*Cambridge Companion* Chs. 8&9;  
*Aegean Art* Ch. 6.  
“Minoanisation,” by C. Broodbank (D2L).

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Tuesday, March 29

**The Art of Thera**

Excerpts from *The Wall Paintings of Thera* by C. Doumas (D2L).

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Thursday, March 31

Video- Aegean: Legacy of Atlantis

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Tuesday, April 5

**Early Mycenaean Greece**

*Cambridge Companion* Ch. 10;  
*Aegean Art* Ch. 7.  

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Thursday, April 7

**Mycenaean Material Culture**

*Cambridge Companion* Ch. 11;  
*Aegean Art* Ch. 8.

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Tuesday, April 12

**Mycenaean States**

*Cambridge Companion* Ch. 12;  
*Aegean Art* Ch. 9.

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**Term Paper 1st Draft Due**
Thursday, April 14  
**Mycenaean Craft Production**

Read:  
“The Perfumed Oil Industry,” by C. Shelmerdine (D2L);  

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Tuesday, April 19  
**LBA Internationalism**

Read:  
*Cambridge Companion Ch. 14;*  
Skim:  

Graduate Students:  
“Think Locally, Act Globally: Mycenaean Elite and the Late Bronze Age World-System,” by R. Schon.

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Thursday, April 21  
**Mycenaean Feasting**

Read:  
“A Survey of Evidence for Feasting in Mycenaean Society,” by J. Wright (D2L).

Graduate Students:  
“Animal Sacrifice, Archives, and Feasting at the Palace of Nestor,” by S.R. Stocker and J.L. Davis (D2L).

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Tuesday, April 26  
**Mycenaean Death, Burial, and Religion**

Read:  
*Cambridge Companion Ch. 13;*  
Graduate Students:  

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Thursday, April 28  
**Final Paper Revisions Due**

Read:  
*Cambridge Companion Ch.15.*

Graduate Students:  
“Earthquake Storms and the Catastrophic End of the Bronze Age,” by Amos Nur (D2L).

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Tuesday, May 3  
**Final Review**

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**FINAL EXAM**  
**Tuesday, May 10 10:30 – 12:30 AM**

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**Policies:**

**Attendance:** Students are required to attend each class and arrive on time. If you must arrive late or leave class early, please sit near an exit and in an aisle seat in order to minimize disruption of the class. Attendance may be taken at any time. If you are sick, or know that you will be absent from class for a legitimate reason, you must inform Professor Schon promptly. Students with excessive absences (>3) early in the term will be administratively dropped from the class. After the deadline, a significant grade deduction will be incurred.

**Make-ups:** If you miss an exam for a legitimate reason, please inform Professor Schon right away. You must get written permission from Professor Schon to take a make-up.

**Valid Excuses:** The following are acceptable excuses for absence from an exam. **Note:** Normally you must notify the instructor within 24 hours of your absence (or sooner). In the event of an extraordinary emergency, such as one that requires extended hospitalization, a written excuse is required upon the student’s return to the class. In all cases, a telephone number or other way to confirm the absence must accompany the note.

*Personal Illness* (with a note from the attending physician)  
*Court Appearance* (with written documentation from the appropriate authority of the court concerned)  
*Death of Immediate Family Member* (with published documentation)  
*University Sponsored Function* (This applies only to student-participants and requires advance notice from the student’s coach or academic adviser. If you have a list of “away dates,” please notify the instructor of conflicts in advance.)  
*Religious Holiday*

**Readings and Writing Assignments:** All readings will be available in the required texts or on D2L. They should be completed BEFORE the day for which they are assigned.
**Turn It In:** If you decide to take and continue in this course, you are agreeing to submit your major papers online, when so instructed, through a program called Turnitin.com. When you set up your individual account with Turnitin for this class, make sure you understand and consent to all the terms that the program provides you at that point. Anyone who has questions or problem with Turnitin may talk privately about these with the instructor. Our class ID# is 3747659 and our password is “Mycenea.”

**Late Written Work:** No extensions on written assignments will be granted. Late work will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day it is past due. That is, a B paper, three days late will receive a grade of C.

**Incompletes:** The University’s policy on “incomplete” grades is given in the General Catalog. Note that a grade of “I” may be given when all but a “minor portion” of the course work has been satisfactorily completed. Missing an exam does **NOT** constitute a “minor portion.”

**Students with Special Needs:** If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Disability Resource Center and request that the DRC send me official notification of your accommodation needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with me during office hours to discuss how this course’s requirements may impact your ability to participate fully.

**Problems:** If you require clarification of any aspect of this syllabus or if you are experiencing problems with the course please see Professor Schon as soon as possible.

**Recording:** The recording of lectures is strictly prohibited.

**Academic Integrity:** Students engaging in academic dishonesty diminish their education and bring discredit to the academic community. Students shall not violate the Code of Academic Integrity and shall avoid situations likely to compromise academic integrity. Students shall observe the generally applicable provisions of this Code whether or not faculty members establish special rules of academic integrity for particular classes. Students are not excused from complying with this Code because of faculty members’ failure to prevent cheating.

You may find the University’s Code of Academic Integrity at:

[http://web.arizona.edu/~dos/uapolicies/cai1.html](http://web.arizona.edu/~dos/uapolicies/cai1.html)

**Conduct:** Students are expected to show respect to themselves, their classmates, and the course instructors. Disruptive behavior including, but not limited to, talking, the use of personal stereos, mobile phones (including text messaging), making excessive noise, or eating malodorous food, during class is prohibited. Minor violations will result in a grade penalty. Major violations will be handled according to university policy.

You may find the University’s Code of Conduct and policy on disruptive behavior at:

[http://web.arizona.edu/~dos/uapolicies/scc5308f.html](http://web.arizona.edu/~dos/uapolicies/scc5308f.html)

You may also find the University’s policy on threatening behavior at:

[http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml](http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml)

**Copyright Notice:** All lectures are copyright 2011 by Robert Schon and the Arizona Board of Regents. Selling or unauthorized transfer for value of any notes for this class without the written permission of Professor Schon may constitute copyright infringement and/or violate University policies. Students found in violation of these prohibitions may be subject to University penalties and possible legal sanctions.

**Note:** Everything in this syllabus is subject to change (except grade and attendance policies). If such changes do occur, they will be made in writing with suitable time for adjustments.