The Archaeology of Neolithic and Bronze Age Greece

Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:15 PM, Chavez 316.

Instructor: Professor Robert Schon

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office hours: Mondays 10:00 – 11:00, Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 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.


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: Student Grades will be based on a mid-term exam (15%), a final exam (25%), 5 one-page response papers (15%), a term-paper (40%) and class participation (5%).

Turnitin: See below for turnitin.com policies.
The Class ID is 2818786.
The password is Aegean.

Please sign up as soon as possible and post all written work on the site. Difficulty signing up is not a valid excuse for late work.
Schedule:
Monday Aug. 24: Introduction: Course Goals; Review Syllabus and Reading

Wednesday Aug. 26: Historiography and the Natural Setting

Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 1; “The Natural Environment and Resources,” Ch. 2 of The Aegean Bronze Age, by O. Dickinson (D2L); “The Cretan Environment: Abused or Just Misunderstood?” by J. Moody (D2L).

Monday Aug. 31: Earliest Prehistory: The Paleolithic and Mesolithic

Readings: “The Old Stone Age: How It All Began,” Ch. 2 of Greece Before History by C. Runnels and P. M. Murray (D2L); Rutter Website: Lesson 1.

Wednesday Sept. 2: Introduction to the Neolithic


Monday Sept. 7: LABOR DAY (NO CLASS)

Wednesday Sept. 9: The Neolithic: Island Colonization

Readings: “Colonization and Configuration in the Insular Neolithic of the Aegean,” by C. Broodbank (D2L) RESPONSE; “Migrant Farmers and the Neolithic Colonization of Crete,” by C. Broodbank & T. Strasser (D2L) RESPONSE.

Monday Septe. 14: The Neolithic: Subsistence Economies and Social Structure


Wednesday Sept. 16: Neolithic Figurines (Discussion)

Paper Topics Due


Monday Sept. 21: Early Minoan Material Culture and Burials

Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 4; Aegean Art Ch. 3.
Wednesday Sept. 23: Early Minoan Settlements (Discussion)
Readings: 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) RESPONSE; Rutter Website: Lesson 5.

Monday Sept. 28: Early Cycladic Settlements, Tombs, and Material Culture
Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 3; Aegean Art Ch. 2; Rutter Website: Lesson 4.

Wednesday Sept. 30: Early Cycladic Figurines (Discussion)
Readings: “Material and Intellectual Consequences of Esteem for Cycladic Figures,” by D. Gill and C. Chippindale (D2L) RESPONSE.

Monday Oct. 5: Introduction to the Early Bronze Age of the Mainland

Abstract and Annotated Bibliography Due
Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 2; Aegean Art Ch. 4; Rutter Website: Lessons 3 and 8.

Wednesday Oct. 7: The Site of Lerna
Reading: “The House of the Tiles at Lerna: Dimensions of ‘Social Complexity,’” by O. Peperaki (D2L) RESPONSE.

Monday Oct. 12: Environment and the Early Bronze Age

Wednesday Oct. 14: Review for Midterm

Monday Oct 19: Midterm Exam

Wednesday Oct. 21: Protopalatial Crete
Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 5; Rutter Website: Lesson 11.
Monday Oct. 26: Neopalatial Crete: The Palaces
Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 6; Aegean Art Ch. 5; Rutter Website: Lesson 12.

Wednesday Oct. 28: Aspects of Minoan Culture: Religion and Politics
Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 7; “Towards a Framework for the Archaeology of Cult Practice,” by C. Renfrew (D2L) RESPONSE; Rutter Website: Lessons 13 & 15.

Monday Nov. 2: The Minoan Thalassocracy
Readings: Cambridge Companion Chs. 8&9; Aegean Art Ch. 6.

Wednesday Nov. 4: Thera
Reading: TBA

Monday Nov. 9: Early Mycenaean Greece

Term Paper Due
Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 10; Aegean Art Ch. 7.

Wednesday Nov. 11: Veterans' Day - No class meeting

Monday Nov. 16: Discussion of Shaft Grave Wealth
Reading: “The Process of Social Stratification at Mycenae in the Shaft Grave Period,” by G. Graziadio (D2L) RESPONSE.

Wednesday Nov. 18: Mycenaean Material Culture
Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 11; Aegean Art Ch. 8.

Monday Nov. 23: Video - Aegean: Legacy of Atlantis

Wednesday Nov. 25: Mycenaean Feasting
Reading: “A Survey of Evidence for Feasting in Mycenaean Society,” by J. Wright (D2L).

Monday Nov. 30: Mycenaean States
Cambridge Companion Ch. 12; Aegean Art Ch. 9.
Wednesday Dec. 2: LBA Internationalism

Readings: Cambridge Companion Ch. 14; “Luxurious Forms: Redefining a Mediterranean ‘International Style’,” by M. Feldman (D2L) RESPONSE.

Monday Dec. 7: The End of the Bronze Age

Final Paper Revisions Due

Reading: Cambridge Companion Ch.15.

Wednesday December 9: Review for Final

FINAL EXAM Wednesday, December 16, 2:00 – 4:00

Written Assignments

Response Papers: Each student will write 5 short essays (250-300 words) in response to select articles on D2L. In these 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 September 16. 2) A detailed outline of your essay, including an argumentative thesis, an abstract, and an annotated bibliography with AT LEAST 10 SCHOLARLY references, due October 5, worth 5 points. 3) And finally, the paper itself, due on November 9: 3,600 words for undergraduates, 5,000 for graduate students, worth 35 points. You will have one opportunity to revise the paper after it has received a preliminary grade. All final revisions are due on or before December 7.

543b: All students taking this course for graduate credit will also write a 1200 word book review. We will meet separately to discuss this assignment in detail.
Policies:

Late written work: No extensions on the paper 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.

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 (i.e. more than 3 in the first 8 weeks) will be administratively dropped from the class. After 8 weeks, a grade deduction will be applied.

Homework: All reading and written assignments should be completed BEFORE that day’s class.

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

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: requirements of this course, you must register with the Disability Resource Center and request that the DRC send Professor Schon official notification of your accommodation needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet 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.

Extra Credit: There are NO opportunities for extra credit in this course.

Turnitin.com: If you decide to take and continue in this course, you are agreeing to submit your papers online, when so instructed, through a plagiarism-prevention 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. You should note
that Turnitin, always without your name and any personal information, will retain your paper as part of their data-base so that students who plagiarize from it can be detected. Because of this program, the vast majority of you who do their own work and cite their sources of information properly will not have to compete with students who commit undetected plagiarism. Anyone who has questions or problem with Turnitin may talk privately about these with the instructor.

Academic: Students engaging in academic dishonesty diminish their education and Integrity: 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. Any student thought to be talking, glancing at another student’s paper, using a crib sheet, being cheated off of, etc., during a quiz or exam will be asked to move to a designated seat at the front of the lecture hall. He or she may then continue the examination or quiz without prejudice. BEING MOVED IS NOT AN ACCUSATION OF CHEATING. Any student actually caught cheating will be subject to the University’s disciplinary measures. For your own protection keep your quiz or exam covered at all times and your eyes on your own paper. All personal listening devices and cell-phones should be packed away for the duration of the quiz or examination. Students who arrive after the first student leaves on an exam day will not be permitted to take the exam. Once a student leaves the room on an exam day he or she will not be permitted to reenter.

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

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

http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml

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However, students are encouraged to form study groups and help those who may have missed class for legitimate reasons.

Note: Everything in this syllabus is subject to change. If such changes do occur, they will be made in writing with suitable time for adjustments.