

## **ARCH/HIST346 The Strangeness of Ancient Greece: Diversity, Difference and Regionality among the Greek States**

May 24 - June 19, 2021

Robert K. Pitt

Email: [robertkpitt@gmail.com](mailto:robertkpitt@gmail.com)

Hours available: by appointment.

### **Course Description**

The weight of Classical texts about Athens or by Athenians has led to a concentration on this one ancient polis, an Athenocentricity that must be balanced by the archaeological, literary and epigraphic record across the rest of the ancient Greece world. Was Athens in fact *the* typical polis, the norm, the exemplar, or quite unique and unusual? Did other Greeks behave like the Athenians in their cultural, religious, or political lives? Did all Greeks have the same rules and taboos concerning gender, sex and sexuality? These questions and many others will be explored during this intensive 4-week tour of Greece, which will cover several regions of the country in order to bring out the local differences in material culture, literary and epigraphic traditions, and archaeological remains. We will visit dozens of archaeological sites and museums and use the evidence presented to discuss issues of race, ethnicity, social structures, language and communication, war, politics, slavery, and religion.

### **Learning objectives**

The course aims to train students in a wide range of disciplines needed to critically evaluate both ancient evidence and modern discussions on Greek culture, using a holistic approach that evaluates the value of different types of evidence and explores how they are used and abused in creating histories of the ancient world.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- assess the trustworthiness of ancient literary sources by understanding their contexts
- work with a variety of material culture from coins and inscriptions to sculpture and pottery and to think about them as evidence for societies
- evaluate modern scholarship from the perspective of the creation of ideas about ancient Greece, and how our understanding of material culture has been shaped by these trends
- appreciate how archaeological sites and museums are formed by processes of cultural identification, promotion and politics
- 'read' sites with an eye towards how cities operated with fortifications, markets, political centres and religious spaces

### **Course Requirements**

Since this is an intense traveling course, students are not required to submit a lengthy final essay (i.e. term paper). A grade will be assigned on the basis of student evaluation throughout the course, principally from presentations and work sheets on sites and in museums. The following components will contribute to the final grade:

- A brief midterm essay assignment (1500 words) on any aspect of the course, chosen from a list of questions or on a topic of your own choice agreed with the professor.
- Active participation (not merely physical presence, but the expression of critical opinions and contribution to class dialogue) and co-operation with the professor and fellow students.

- one oral field report or presentation on an archaeological site or museum, of no more than 10-15 minutes, chosen from a list of monuments, objects, and topics.
- a series of work sheets to be completed when visiting sites and museums.
- In-class debate.
- 120-150 pages of reading per week. Please note that weekly load of reading varies depending on each week's subject matter and/ or travel load. Readings will be given electronically.

### Grading and Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

Midterm essay 30%

Site presentation 30%

Work sheets 20%

Active participation and contribution 20%

### Class Schedule

Day	Date	Sites/Topics/Readings	Overnight
1	05/24	Arrival. 18.00 Orientation 19.30 Welcome dinner by CYA	Athens
2	05/25	Introductory lectures CYA  - Lecture: <i>The ancient Greek polis – structures and society</i> - Seminar: <i>Ethnicity and the Greeks</i> - Lecture: <i>The discovery of Greece: travelers and scholars in search of the past</i>  Reading: Hansen, <i>Polis</i> , 31-65 Hall, <i>Ethnic Identity</i> , 34-66	Athens
3	05/26	Acropolis and its slopes Themes: state religion and private dedication; historical and mythological commemoration in the cultic landscape; changing times and introducing new gods.  Reading: Course booklet J. M. Hurwit, <i>The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles</i> , Cambridge 2004, chapter 2: 'Landscape of Memory: The Past on the Classical Acropolis'.	Athens
4	05/27	Acropolis Museum Themes: gendering dedications to the gods; self-representation and state propaganda in sculptural monuments; (re)presenting the ancient Greeks in a modern museum.  Pnyx and Philopappos hills Themes: democracy, oratory and persuasion in Athens; the coming of Rome and how to Romanize.	Athens

		<p>Reading: Course booklet J. M. Hurwit, <i>The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles</i>, Cambridge 2004, chapter 4: 'The Parthenon'.</p>	
5	05/28	<p>Agora Themes: peopling public spaces; ancient economies; commemorating glory.</p> <p>Kerameikos Themes: death in Greek society; the role of women in religion and burial; talking to the dead and conjuring magic.</p> <p>Reading: Course booklet J. McK. Camp II, <i>The Athenian Agora Site Guide</i>, Princeton 2010, 15-33. Worksheet: Kerameikos Museum: The Greek way of Death</p>	Athens
6	05/29	Free day	Athens
7	05/30	Free day	Athens
8	05/31	<p>Eleusis Themes: sanctuaries as border posts; mysterious goings-on in the quest for an afterlife; secret cults and their members. Archaeological Museum of Nafplio</p> <p>Reading: Course booklet K. Clinton, 'The Mysteries of Demeter and Kore', in D. Ogden, ed. <i>Greek Religion</i>, Wiley-Blackwell 2010, 342-356.</p>	Nafplio
9	06/01	<p>Epidauros Themes: medicine, miracles and healing; new gods for the Greeks; internationalism on the religious circuit. Argive Heraion Themes: who were the Argives and why so much myth?</p> <p>Reading: Course booklet J. M. Hall, 'How Argive was the "Argive" Heraion? The Political and Cultic Geography of the Argive Plain, 900-400 BC', <i>American Journal of Archaeology</i> 99 (1995) 577-613.</p>	Sparta
10	06/02	<p>Sparta acropolis Archaeological Museum of Sparta Menelaion Themes: The Spartans: warriors and little else? Festivals and myth behind the iron curtain; sexuality, pederasty, and where are the women?</p>	Kalamata

		<p>Reading: Course booklet N. M. Kennell, <i>Spartans: A New History</i>, Wiley-Blackwell 2010, chapters 1 &amp; 2. Worksheet: Sparta Museum: Spartan religion</p>	
11	06/03	<p>Messene Temple of Apollo Epikourios, Bassai Themes: the creation of an ethnic homeland for the Messenians; slavery and servitude in the lands of the Spartans.</p> <p>Reading: Course booklet N. Luraghi, <i>The Ancient Messenians: Constructions of Ethnicity and Memory</i>, Cambridge 2008, chapter 8. Worksheet: Messene: Ethnic identity in a new city.</p>	Olympia
12	06/04	<p>Olympia: site and museums Themes: Panhellenism and all the Greeks together. Athletes, spectators, winning and losing in the greatest of games. The cult of beauty and the body beautiful.</p> <p>Reading: Course booklet J. M. Barringer, <i>A Cultural History of Olympia and its Monuments</i>, Princeton 2021, Introduction.</p>	Delphi
13	06/05	<p>Delphi: site and museum Themes: Oracles and divination at the centre of the world. Pilgrims, prayers and deception in an international space: how to speak to a god.</p> <p>Reading: Course booklet C. Morgan, <i>Athletes and Oracles</i>, Cambridge 1990, chapter 5: 'The Institution of the Delphic Oracle'.</p>	Litochoro
14	06/06	<p>Dion Themes: who were the Macedonians and were they Greek? Philip and Alexander: Hellenism and Hellenicity in an expanding universe.</p> <p>Class reading: Course booklet J. M. Hall, 'Contested Ethnicities: Perceptions of Macedonia within Evolving Definitions of Greek Identity', in I. Malkin ed. <i>Ancient Perceptions of Greek Ethnicity</i>, Washington, DC 2001.</p>	Thasos
15	06/07	<p>Thasos Themes: Island networks: resources, trade, moving and making in international waters.</p>	Thasos

		<p>Class reading: Course booklet Worksheet: Thasos archaeological site and its public display.</p>	
16	06/08	<p>Thessaloniki and its Archaeological Museum Themes: Macedonians, Greekness, neighbours and conflict from antiquity to the present.</p> <p>Class reading: Course booklet</p>	Thessaloniki
17	06/09	<p>Olynthos Themes: building Greek cities and knocking them down again: town planning and domestic spaces.</p> <p>Class reading: Course booklet L. C. Nevett et al. 'Constructing the Urban Profile of an Ancient Greek City: evidence from the Olynthos Project', <i>Annual of the British School at Athens</i> 115 (2020).</p>	Thessaloniki
18	06/10	<p>Vergina Themes: Excavating heroes in the Modern Greek State: archaeologists, propaganda, and identity politics.</p> <p>Class reading: Course booklet J. M. Hall, <i>Artifact &amp; Artifice: Classical Archaeology and the Ancient Historian</i>, Chicago 2014, chapter 6: 'The Tombs at Vergina'.</p>	Athens
19	06/11	<p>Epigraphical Museum Themes: A language divided: ancient Greek dialects and their mutual comprehension. Powerful stones: imperial documents and control in Athens.</p> <p>Class reading: Course booklet Hall, <i>Ethnic Identity</i>, chapter 6: 'Ethnicity and linguistics'.</p>	Athens
20	06/12	Free day	Athens
21	06/13	Free day	Athens
22	06/14	<p>National Archaeological Museum: sculpture collections Themes: self- and family-representation in funerary sculpture: what makes the perfect death? Sex, nudes, and covering up: looking at the body in ancient Greece.</p> <p>Reading: Course booklet</p>	Athens
23	06/15	National Archaeological Museum: pottery collections	Athens

		Themes: Reading Greek pottery: utility and ritual.  Reading: Course booklet Work sheet: Pottery as evidence for culture.	
24	06/16	Eretria and Chalkis, Evia Themes: island states and external control.  Reading; Course booklet	Athens
25	06/17	Final seminar part I Was Athens the norm?  Class reading: J. M. Hall, 'Ancient Greek Ethnicities: Towards a Reassessment,' <i>Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies</i> 58 (2015) 15–29.	Athens
26	06/18	Final seminar part II Ethnicity and self-identification among the ancient Greeks.	Athens
27	06/19	12.00 Check-out apartments Program ends	

### **Bibliography abbreviations**

Course booklet = plans and information about the sites we visit in the course booklet.  
Hansen, *Polis* = M. H. Hansen, *Polis. An Introduction to the Ancient Greek City-State*, Oxford 2006.  
Hall, Hellenicity = J. M. Hall, *Hellenicity. Between Ethnicity and Culture*, Chicago 2002.  
Hall, Ethnic Identity = J. M. Hall, *Ethnic Identity in Greek Antiquity*, Cambridge 2004.