

ARCX 321 Excavating in the Aegean: The Despotiko Field School

Summer I 2024, 20 May – 15 June 2024

(Paros, Antiparos)

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Course Description

CYA summer course ARCX 321 **Excavating in the Aegean: The Despotiko Field School (Paros, Antiparos)** aims at introducing students to archaeological fieldwork theory and methods through active participation in the systematic excavation of one of the most important sites in the Cyclades at the centre of the Aegean.

Despotiko is today an uninhabited islet, west of Antiparos and east of Siphnos. A shallow, naturally protected bay is formed between Despotiko and Antiparos, bordered by the islet of Tsimintiri from the north. Since 2001, the systematic excavation at the site of "Mandra", occupying the islet's largest and most fertile peninsula, revealed an extended establishment. More than 22 buildings have come to light so far with a sanctuary dedicated to Apollo forming the site's core.



The course will provide students the opportunity to uncover more part of the site's long history extending from the Early Iron Age (9th c. BC) to the end of the Classical period (4th c. BC).

The excavation season of 2024 will focus on different parts of the site, like the East complex, composed of buildings operating during the 6th and 5th centuries BC, and a building firstly explored by CYA students in 2023 (Building MN). Moreover, at least a week will be dedicated to the exploration of the remains on the islet of Tsimintiri, where it seems that buildings of public character were founded in the 7th c. BC.

The first three weeks, the students will work at the site, where they will familiarize themselves with the entire excavation procedure. They will be taught the basic methods of stratigraphical excavation, the onsite documentation, and processing of the finds. Excavation work will be combined with several activities in the afternoon, including the detailed recording of the activities at the site, the preparation of architectural plans and more importantly of the excavation diary.

The last week of the course will be spent on the island of Paros and the town of Paroikia, where the Archaeological Museum of Paros. At the museum's storage rooms, the students will be trained at the detailed processing of the objects discovered during the previous weeks at the site. They will learn how to clean, sort, catalogue, draw and photograph the material. They will therefore become acquainted with the process, which enables the detailed study, interpretation and publication of the excavated material.

Morning work at the museum will be combined with afternoon classes, focusing on the nature of the various objects uncovered during the excavation with a special focus on the clay vases, clay figurines and other clay or metal finds. Students will be provided with supplementary information on the examined material with our discussions adapted to the nature of the finds processed at the museum.

During these four weeks, students will have the opportunity to meet and discuss with experts from all over the world, who are members of the excavation's research team, including archaeologists, architects, photographers, geologists, conservators.

Moreover, a series of lectures will be given on issues concerning archaeological theory and methods, the various types of archaeological evidence, focusing on the material from Despotiko, ancient religious practices and rituals, the birth and development of Greek sanctuaries, in particularly those in the Cyclades. These lectures aim at enabling students to fully comprehend the purposes of a systematic excavation and to place the site and its material culture into its theoretical context.

The final exam, scheduled for the last day, aims at testing the knowledge gained by students throughout the experience on Despotiko and Paros, as well as from the bibliography studied during the same period of time.

REQUIREMENTS

Antiparos-Despotiko

Participation at the excavation (50%)

The disciplined, enthusiastic participation in the excavation is a basic parameter for the successful completion of the course. The everyday on-time attendance and the respect of the schedule rules set by the director of the excavation are required. Each student will serve as a trench-master for a number of days, being responsible for the excavation diary and the everyday recording of the finds. The careful reading of the assignments and the afternoon classes will provide the basis for this responsibility.

Class participation (25%)

The attendance of the afternoon classes is compulsory. The study of the suggested bibliography and the active participation of the students will contribute substantially toward the final grade.

Final Exam (25%)

A two-hour written exam is based on the three-week excavation experience at the site of Despotiko, the study week at the museum of Paros and the material provided during the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 20 – 26 May 2024	<i>Introduction to Archaeological Methods</i>
M. May 20	13.30 Students' arrival at the port of Antiparos 15.00 Transfer to the hotel 18.00 Orientation 20.00 Welcome Dinner
T. May 21	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: Discovering Despotiko - Introduction to documentation of the excavation
W. May 22	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: Theoretical approaches to Classical Archaeology [Renfrew & Bahn 2004: Introduction & Chapter 1; Haggis & Antonaccio 2015] Preparation of the Excavation Diary
T. May 23	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: Archaeological Project Development & Excavation Methods [Renfrew & Bahn 2004: Chapter 3] Preparation of the Excavation Diary
F. May 24	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Processing, Classification and Recording, Artefact Categories</i> [Renfrew & Bahn 2004: Chapter 2] Preparation of the Excavation Diary
WEEK 2 27 May–2 June 2024	<i>Greek Sanctuaries</i>
M. May 27	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Chronology and Periodization</i> [Renfrew & Bahn 2004: Chapter 4] Preparation of the Excavation Diary
T. May 28	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Introduction to Greek Sanctuaries</i> [Pedley 2005: Chapters IV-VI] Preparation of the Excavation Diary
W. May 29	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Birth of Greek Sanctuaries & Ritual Dining</i> Preparation of the Excavation Diary
T. May 30	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Ritual Practices & Sacrifice</i> Preparation of the Excavation Diary
F. May 31	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Votive Dedications</i> [Pedley 2005: Chapter VII]
WEEK 3 3 – 9 June 2024	<i>The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades</i>
M. June 3	07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation

	<p>15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>The Geology of Despotiko, Antiparos & Paros</i> (Professor Erich Draganits) Preparation of the Excavation Diary</p>
T. June 4	<p>07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Paros</i> Preparation of the Excavation Diary</p>
W. June 5	<p>07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Naxos</i> Preparation of the Excavation Diary</p>
T. June 6	<p>07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Delos</i> Preparation of the Excavation Diary</p>
F. June 7	<p>07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Siphnos, Kythnos</i></p>
S. June 8	Free Day
S. June 9	<p>09.00-10.00 Check out from Zombos Hotel Transfer to the Port of Antiparos – Ferry to Paros – Bus to Paroikia 14:00 Check in Hotel Aegean Village Paros</p>
WEEK 4 10 –15 June 2024	<i>Archaeological Museum of Paros</i>
M. June 10	<p>08.30-14.30 Material Processing 14.45 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Introduction to Cycladic ceramics</i></p>
T. June 11	<p>08.30-14.30 Material Processing 14.45 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Shapes & Uses, Typologies & Utilities</i></p>
W. June 12	<p>08.30-14.30 Material Processing 14.45 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Pots & Images</i></p>
T. June 13	<p>08.30-14.30 Material Processing 15.00 Lunch 19.00 Lecture: <i>Clay Figurines & various Clay Objects</i></p>
F. June 14	<p>08.30-14.30 Material Processing 15.00 Lunch 18.00 Final Exam</p>
S. June 15	END OF PROGRAM

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Despotiko

Kourayos, Yannos. *Despotiko: The Sanctuary of Apollo*. Athens: Paul & Alexandra Canellopoulos Foundation, 2012.

Kourayos, Yannos. *Despotiko, a Journey in Time: 20 years of Research at the Sanctuary of Apollo*. Antiparos: Municipality of Antiparos, 2018.

Cyclades

Alexandridou, A. & Mazarakis Ainian, A. "Recent archaeological work in the Cyclades (Geometric to Hellenistic)". *Archaeological Reports* 68, Nov. 2022, pp. 197-220.

Archaeology & Methods

Haggis, D. & Antonaccio, C., ed. *Classical Archaeology in Context: Theory and Practice in Excavation in the Greek World*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2015.

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, P. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 4th edition. London: Thames and Hudson, 2004.

Sanctuaries

Mazarakis Ainian, A. "Archaic Sanctuaries of the Cyclades. Research of the Last Decade." *Archaeological Reports* 59 (2013): 96-102.

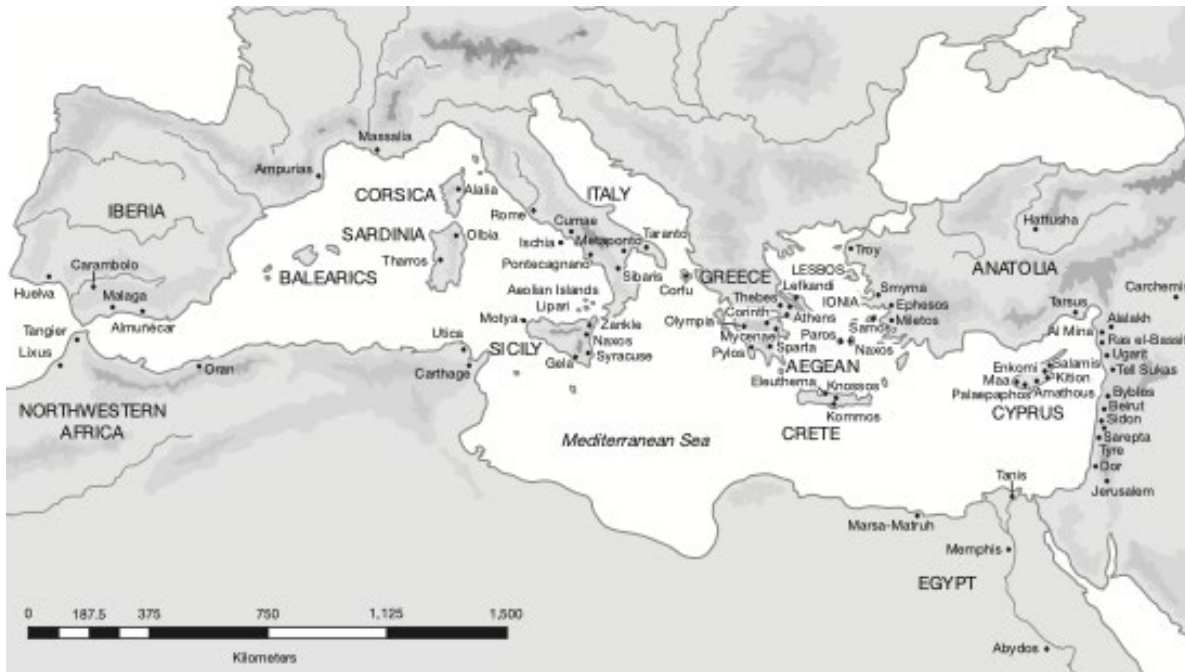
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Sanctuaries and Cults in the Cyclades. Accessed October 17, 2023. <http://cs.ha.uth.gr>

Greek Pottery

Boardman, J. *The History of Greek Vases: Potters, Painters, and Pictures*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 2007.

MAPS



1. The Mediterranean (after Lemos & Kotsonas 2020, Map 1)



2. The Cyclades (after Lemos & Kotsonas 2020, Map 13)

Basic Greek Chronology

