

ARCH/HIST346

The Strangeness of Ancient Greece: Diversity, Difference and Regionality among the Greek States (Summer Session I).

Dates: 20 May - 15 June 2024

Course Instructor: Prof. Robert K. Pitt

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Hours available: by appointment.

Travel: The Peloponnese, the island of Naxos, and sites in Athens and its surrounding region of Attica.

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:

- 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:

Site presentation 50%

Work sheets 25%

Active participation and contribution 25%.

Class Schedule:

Day	Date	Sites/Topics/Readings	Overnight
1	05/20 Mon	Arrival. 18.00 Orientation 19.30 Welcome dinner by CYA	Athens
2	05/21 Tues	Introductory lecture CYA 10.00-12.00 Evidence and methodologies for the ancient Greeks: An Introduction. Reading: Hansen, <i>Polis</i> , 31-65 Hall, <i>Ethnic Identity</i> , 34-66	Athens
3	05/22 Wed	17:30 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: 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	05/23 Thur	17:30 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.	Athens
5	05/24 Fri	09.00 Agora Themes: peopling public spaces; ancient economies; commemorating glory. 11.00 Kerameikos Themes: death in Greek society; the role of women in religion and burial; talking to the dead and conjuring magic. Reading: J. McK. Camp II, <i>The Athenian Agora Site Guide</i> , Princeton 2010, 15-33. Worksheet: Kerameikos Museum: The Greek way of Death	Athens
6	05/25 Sat	FREE DAY	Athens
7	05/26 Sun	FREE DAY	Athens
8	05/27 Mon	09.00 National Archaeological Museum: sculpture and pottery 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. Reading Greek pottery: utility and ritual. 11.30 Epigraphical Museum Themes: A language divided: ancient Greek dialects and their mutual comprehension. Powerful stones: imperial documents and control in Athens. Reading: Hall, <i>Ethnic Identity</i> , chapter 6: 'Ethnicity and linguistics'.	Athens
9	05/28 Tues	STUDY TRIP TO NAXOS Ferry from Piraeus port to the island of Naxos in the Cyclades Introduction and walking tour of Naxos town	Naxos
10	05/29 Wed	Naxos archaeological and ethnographic museums Themes: island life ancient and modern	Naxos
11	05/30 Thurs	Road trip visiting the marble kouros statues, temples and mountain villages of the island Themes: natural resources and the marble trade	Naxos
12	05/31 Fri	Ferry back to Athens	Athens

13	06/01 Sat	FREE DAY	Athens
14	06/02 Sun	08.30 Trip around Attica 10.00 Archaeological Site and Museum of Brauron 13.00 Silver mines of Lavrion 15.00 Temple of Poseidon at Sounion	Athens
15	06/03 Mon	09.00 Roman Athens: Library of Hadrian, Roman Agora, Philopappos Monument Themes: The changing role of Greece under Roman dominance, and Athenian self-representation.	Athens
16	06/04 Tues	09.00 Sites and sanctuaries on the Western Hills: the Pnyx, Philopappos, and Hill of the Nymphs	Athens
17	06/05 Wed	STUDY TRIP TO THE DELPHI AND THE PELOPONNESE 08.00 Leave Athens for Thebes 10.30 Archaeological Museum of Thebes 14.00 Monastery of Ossiou Loukas	Delphi
18	06/06 Thur	08.30 Site and Museum of Delphi. Themes: Oracles and divination at the centre of the world. Pilgrims, prayers and deception in an international space: how to speak to a god. Drive to Olympia Reading: C. Morgan, <i>Athletes and Oracles</i> , Cambridge 1990, chapter 5: 'The Institution of the Delphic Oracle'.	Olympia
19	06/07 Fri	09.00 Olympia: site and museums Drive to Kalamata 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. Reading: J. M. Barringer, <i>A Cultural History of Olympia and its Monuments</i> , Princeton 2021, Introduction.	Kalamata
20	06/08 Sat	08.30 Leave for site of Messene Reading: N. Luraghi, <i>The Ancient Messenians: Constructions of Ethnicity and Memory</i> , Cambridge 2008, chapter 8. Worksheet: Messene: Ethnic identity in a new city.	Kalamata
21	06/09 Sun	08.30 Leave for the sites of Tiryns and Mycenae	Nafplio
22	06/10 Mon	09.00 Palamidi fortress 10.30 Archaeological Museum of Nafplio and city walking tour	Nafplio
23	06/11 Tue	08.30 Epidauros 11.00 Franchthi Cave	Nafplio
24	06/12 Wed	08.30 Leave for site of Corinth 12.30 Eleusis Travel back to Athens	Athens
25	06/13 Thur	17:30 Slopes of the Acropolis; Sanctuary and Theatre of Dionysos Themes: medicine, miracles and healing; new gods for the Greeks; internationalism on the religious circuit.	Athens
26	06/14 Fri	09.30 Walking tour of post-antique Athens and final thoughts 12.30 Farewell lunch at CYA	Athens
27	06/15 Sat	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.

Course Bibliography

Barringer, Judith M. *Olympia: A Cultural History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2021.

Camp, John McK II. *The Athenian Agora: Site Guide*. Princeton: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 2010.

Hall, Jonathan M. *Ethnic Identity in Greek Antiquity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Hall, Jonathan M. *Hellenicity: Between Ethnicity and Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002.

Hansen, Mogens Herman. *Polis: An Introduction to the Ancient Greek City-State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Hurwit, Jeffrey M. *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Luraghi, Nino. *The Ancient Messenians: Constructions of Ethnicity and Memory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Morgan, Catherine. *Athletes and Oracles: The Transformation of Olympia and Delphi in the Eighth Century BC*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.