

ARCH347 | When Egypt meets the Aegean: Interconnections in the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean Summer 2024

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Course description

This course provides an interpretative survey and a thematic coverage of the history of the Aegean and Egypt with a special focus on the Late Bronze Age (*ca.* 1700-1050 BCE). The students will explore a brilliant moment in the history of civilization of Greece, the Aegean Bronze Age, during which Egyptian culture had a great impact on the local societies. Several aspects of everyday life will be explored, such as architecture and planning, burial practices, trade and exchange, scripts and literacy, religion and ritual, arts and crafts, hierarchy, and political organization.

The participants will benefit from accessing the unique collections of Egyptian and Aegean prehistoric antiquities at the Athens National Archaeological Museum and the stimulating collection of Cypriot antiquities at the Museum of Cycladic Art. A great part of the course will take place at the site of Akrotiri on Thera. In addition, a five-day visit to the island of Crete, a land of extreme archaeological importance, is organised to explore the complex sites of Knossos, Malia with Quartier Mu and Phaistos, the villa of Nirou Khani and the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, the magnificent Quartier Mu, the harbour of Kommos, etc. As it is crucial to study these cultures in depth, they will be discussed within their greater Aegean social and political context. Thus, a three-day excursion to the citadels of Mycenae, Tiryns and Midea, the cemetery of Dendra and the settlement of Lerna, as well as the Archaeological Museum of Nauplion are a fundamental part of this summer course.

Course aim

The aim of the course is to illustrate the relationship between prehistoric Greece and Egypt and to explore the archaeological sites and material culture of the Aegean societies of the Late Bronze Age. The course aims also at making students reflect on the definition of what constitutes a high civilization. What was the role of Egypt in affecting Minoan art and culture? How did Crete influence Mycenae? Were the island harbor-towns major players in the trade networks? These questions will be discussed from an eastern Mediterranean perspective with references to other important centers in culture, politics and economy.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course the students will have:

- familiarized themselves with the archaeology of the region through personal experience and some bibliographic research.
- improved their on-site observations at major archaeological sites.
- seen a unique, currently on-going (since 1967) archaeological excavation at Akrotiri, the so-called "Pompeii of prehistoric Aegean".
- been aware of the methodologies and scientific applications needed for the study of the human past and especially complex societies.

Prerequisites

This course has no prerequisites, and no knowledge of foreign languages is required as it is designed to cover all basic knowledge of the topic. However, it would be an advantage to have already taken one or more courses on Aegean Prehistory, Greek, Egyptian or Near Eastern Archaeology.

Readings for the course

i) (Instead of a) Textbook

Although this course is based on a series of readings (see next part) rather than on a textbook, the following publication, available free to download, is extremely useful for the purposes of this programme and provides great data for research and stimulating discussions. Feel free to use it throughout these four weeks. (*Note: some of the Required Readings will be from this volume*)

• Aruz, J., K. Benzel and J.M. Evans (eds.) (2008) *Beyond Babylon. Art, Trade and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C.* New York and New Haven: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Yale University Press.



https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/beyond babylon art trade and diplomacy in the second millenium bc

ii) Required Reading

For each class/ visit an amount of *Required reading* of one or two papers is required. The participants should preferably read these papers before the class, to comprehend the topic and participate lively in the discussion. All the *Required readings* are available on Moodle as pdf files.

iii) Recommended Reading

The course covers a wide range of themes and topics throughout a lengthy period over a wide geographical region. As a result, the bibliography is immense, starting from simple excavation reports to long, synthetic works bringing together data from a variety of sites and offering various interpretations. The required readings consist of a long list of publications, all of which are available at CYA and/or online. You are encouraged to consult this list for further personal research, either towards your essay work or simply to comprehend better the dynamics and the complexity of the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean societies.

iv) Handouts

Students will receive handouts to prepare for the following lecture or site/museum visit. The handouts will include basic key words, some research questions and important issues that will be discussed in class, as well as the required and recommended readings. **All handouts will be available only at Moodle.**

v) Study guide

A Study Guide will be provided, so that you can use it for key-aspects of Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean archaeology, chronologies, maps and other useful information. Bear in mind that the guide is only a guide, and it cannot replace your attention in class and the study of the *Required Readings*.

vi) Online resources

There are several online resources about the course some of which you will find below:

- Latsis Foundation, The Museums Cycle https://www.latsis-foundation.org/eng/e-library
- Dartmouth Aegean Prehistoric Archaeology http://www.dartmouth.edu/~prehistory/aegean/
- Nestor Aegean Bibliography
 - http://classics.uc.edu/nestor/index.php/nestorbib
- Metropolitan Museum of Art, Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/
- Foundation of Hellenic World
 Hellenic World
 Hellenic World
 - http://e-history.gr/en/index.html
- National Archaeological Museum at Athens http://www.namuseum.gr/wellcome-en.html
- Museum of Cycladic Art
 - http://www.cycladic.gr
- Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports- Odysseus http://odysseus.culture.gr/index en.html
- Minoan Crete http://www.minoancrete.com/

Assessment

Important note: In order to be more involved in the course, you should create your small research groups of <u>three to five</u> participants (choose a cool name too).

i) Attendance and participation (individual)

This is a short and very demanding course and therefore you are expected to attend all classes and contribute to the discussions and exchange of ideas and views. As this is also a lively and interactive programme, you are encouraged to criticise any interpretations you may find problematic and to show familiarity and supporting data via your required readings. Additionally, there will be on-site group activities and you are expected to contribute to your group effort. *Grade:* Your overall attendance will count towards **25%** of the final grade.



(Note: For details check Rubric).

ii) Group presentation and quizzes

As research groups, you will have to work on three categories of assignments:

- a) <u>Short quizzes</u>. These will be scattered around the course. They are four in number, and you will be expected to respond to the challenge (often on a competitive basis with the other groups) and produce your deliverable within specific time limits (Check *Calendar*, page 8).
- b) A group presentation (15-20 minutes in total) will take place at certain times (see below and Calendar of Activities). Please choose a *Theme* from the following table or create your own. Afterwards, on the agreed date, you should present to the rest of the class a description of the site (such as aspects of geographical location, architectural features, material culture, function, parallels elsewhere, materials used, technologies, symbolisms, problems in the interpretation, etc). For bibliography and presentation guidelines, contact your course instructor. After the oral presentation, you should deliver a short written report in a single file, around 200 words per group participant (i.e. a 4-person group should deliver a single word file with 800 words in total). Remember, in order for your group to reserve a theme/date, you need to email me your Group's Bronze Age name, the names of the participants and the theme you need. *First come, first served*.
- c) One Group Project (Details TBA).

Grade: Your overall attendance will count towards **25%** of the final grade.

(Note: For details check Rubric).

Group Project study morning: 28 June

iii) Captain's logbook

Topic: You are the captain of a vessel that sails around the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean region and, as a merchant, you decided to explore the islands and famous towns of the Aegean Sea as well. Each day you record the life of your ship and your crew, as well as your mercantile activities or other events in a Captain's logbook. That logbook should be a treasure of knowledge and personal thoughts at the end of the journey.

How to do it: You must choose your port of origin and, if you want, your own identity. As a participant to this course, you should keep notes for literally everything: the topics we discuss in class, the artefacts we shall see in the various museums, the sites we shall explore. Take many photographs. Keep notes on a diary during boat and bus rides. Read the bibliography, make your own research. At the end, you should provide a diary of an imaginative trip that is full of facts, data and illustrations from your own experience and personal autopsies.

Milestone: There will be one (1) milestone during this assignment. On the specific date (see below) you should email your instructor and let him know of your progress (no more than one paragraph).

Note: For the final deliverable i.e. the logbook, you shall need references and bibliography as any proper research essay. Discuss these matters with your instructor.

Format: Use Times New Roman font, size 12 and preferably footnotes (no endnotes or in-text references).

Length: The diary should be no more than 2000 words (excluding bibliography, tables, maps and illustrations).

Bibliography: It is required to use <u>at least three (3)</u> relevant references from the course readings and/or the syllabus. *Plagiarism:* You should be very clear and careful in order to reference your work, source the illustrations and give proper reference to other people's work. There is nothing wrong in using theories and ideas found elsewhere in publications or online, but it is considered a copyright violation to use this data without properly referencing the person who made it available to the public.

Delivery: You are asked to submit your manuscript to the instructors via email.

Grade: The captain's logbook will count towards **50%** of your final grade.

(Note: For details check Rubric)

Milestone: 30 June Captain's log submission date: 12 July, 20:00

The *Final Grade* is broken down as follows:

Class attendance and participation: 25%

• Group presentation, quizzes and Group Project: 25%

Captain's logbook: 50%

Total: 100%

Hints and tips

Access to bibliography Libraries:



- @ Athens: Library of the College Year in Athens (CYA)
- @ Athens: Athens Archaeological Society (ask instructor for details)
- @ Thera: Library facilities of Bellonio Foundation at Fira.

Outdoor activities

There will be plenty of outdoor activities, such as fieldtrips to various archaeological sites and city walking. Athens and the Greek islands can be quite warm during June and July, so you need to take all necessary precautions regarding sun protection (hat, sun block) and always carry some water with you. Ideally, as some of the visits are one-off, you should carry with you your notebook and a pen/ pencil, a photographic camera (be aware that in some museums and sites photography is not allowed) and your smile.

Student-Instructor collaboration

Students are encouraged to discuss with the instructors any aspect of the course that may be of special interest to them throughout the programme. There will be plenty of time between classes and site, museums, or laboratory visits to do so.

Note for the use of laptops

In-class or on-site use of laptops and other devices is permitted if that facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up references, etc. Laptop or other device privileges will be suspended if there are not used for class-related work. Members of the faculty are welcomed to create a 'laptop-free zone' in the classroom for students who do not use electronic devices and feel distracted if they sit close to one.

Suggested presentation themes

(Check also the 'Food for Thought' for each class)

- 1. Scientific approaches to prehistoric archaeology
- 2. Methods of dating in prehistory
- 3. The Early Cycladic marble figurines
- 4. Thoughts and views on 'palatial redistribution' in the Aegean
- 5. Defining a 'palace' in Minoan Crete
- 6. The Phaistos Disc
- 7. Knossos and its environs
- 8. Habitation and circulation in the town of Akrotiri on Thera
- 9. Iconography of the Akrotiri wall-paintings
- 10. Iconography as a source of information for the everyday life
- 11. The Shaft Graves of Mycenae: Social complexity
- 12. Types of tombs, building methods and labor
- 13. Funerary practices in the Aegean Bronze Age
- 14. The 'Mask of Agamemnon'
- 15. The weapons of the Mycenaeans
- 16. The citadels of Mycenae and Tiryns: Compare and contrast
- 17. Linear A and Linear B script
- 18. The Uluburun shipwreck
- 19. Ugarit as a trade port
- 20. The quest for copper (and tin)
- 21. Trojan War: Myth or reality?
- 22. The End of the Bronze Age in the Eastern Mediterranean

These are just rough titles. Alter them if you like and/or create your own.



Course Calendar (Short)

	Course Calendar (Short)	
Date	Themes/ Activities	Venue
(Tue) 18 June	1. Chronology, geography and the Eastern Mediterranean	CYA
(Wed) 19 June	2. Cultures in contact: What does it mean	CYA
	3. Boats and shipwrecks: Crossing the Middle Sea	CYA
(Thu) 20 June	4. Mobility, storage, arts in prehistory	MCA
(Fri) 21 June	5. Raw materials, finished products, trade and exchange	NAM
(Sat) 22 June	6. Age of the Empire: Egypt in the New Kingdom Quiz 1	NAM
(Sun) 23 June	Departure for Thera/ Free day	
(Mon)24 June	7. When a volcano clears its throat: The "Minoan" eruption and its	Thera
	effects (inc. boat trip)	
(Tue) 25 June	8. Akrotiri: Pompeii of prehistoric Aegean (incl. boat trip)	Akrotiri
(Wed) 26 June	9. Theran arts and crafts Quiz 2	Museum of Prehistoric
		Thera
(Thu) 27 June	10. Outside the main settlement	Archangelos hill
	11. Architecture and planning: Private & public	Akrotiri
(Fri) 28 June	12. Group project study morning	Thera
, ,	Departure for Crete	
(Sat) 29 June	13. Minoan arts and crafts	Arch. Museum of
, ,		Herakleion
(Sun) 30 June	14. A Palace and a workshop	Mallia & Quartier Mu
	15. Cemetery and society	Fourni
(Mon) 1 July	16. What is a villa?	Nirou Khani
(, , , , ,	17. Aspects of everyday life in Minoan Crete	Gournia
(Tue) 2 July	18. The 'palaces' of Crete	Knossos
	19. Pottery workshop	Margarites Village
(Wed) 3 July	20. Minoan political and economic geography	Phaistos, Agia Triada,
	Departure for Athens	Mesara Museum
(Thu) 4 July	Free day	
(Fri) 5 July	21. Introduction to the Mycenaean culture Quiz 3	CYA
(Sat) 6 July	Departure for the Peloponnese	
(,	22. Trade makes the world go round	Corinth
	23. Citadels of the Mycenaean world (Part I)	Mycenae
(Sun) 7 July	24. An early palace?	Lerna
())	25. Citadels of the Mycenaean world (Part II)	Tiryns
	26. Mycenaean arts and crafts	Nauplion
(Mon) 8 July	27. The political geography of the Mycenaean world	Midea
(* ****)	28. A burial landscape	Dendra
	Departure for Athens	2 511414
(Tue) 9 July	29. Study Day Quiz 4	
(Wed) 10 July	30. Cyprus: The island of copper	MCA (Acropolis &
(== / == == /	Optional visit to the Acropolis of Athens (and Museum)	New Acropolis Museum)
(Thu) 11 July	31. Ugarit: A thriving port of trade	CYA
(1112) 22 22.7	32. Gifts and Diplomacy in the Eastern Mediterranean	CYA
(Fri) 12 July	33. Redefining an 'International Koine'	CYA
() == 50.,	34. The end of the Bronze Age (*Captain's log submissions)	CYA
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Calendar of activities (detailed)

CYA College Year in Athens (Room TBA)
NAM National Archaeological Museum at Athens

MCA Museum of Cycladic Art

MCA	Museum or Cycladic Art
Class Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due
18 June	1. Chronology, geography and the Eastern Mediterranean context
(Tuesday)	Venue: CYA
	Description
	Aegean societies should be studied and understood in their wider environmental and geographical context over
	a long period of time. This introduction focuses on the climate and ecology of the Greek region, the relationship
	between people, animals, land and sea, and how all these factors influenced the development of these very
	distinctive local cultures. Special attention should be paid to chronological issues and relevant problems and
	limitations.
	Required reading
	Aruz in Aruz <i>et al.</i> 2008: 3-10
	Mee 2011: 1-7
	Bennet 2007: 175-182
	Recommended reading
	Abulafia 2014 (for a diachronic review)
	Bintliff 2012: 11-27
	Dickinson 1994: 23-29
	Dickinson 2014
	Hughes 2005 (various chapters)
	Manning in Cline 2010: 11-28
	Muhly in Cline 2010: 3-10
	Renfrew and Bahn 2001: Ch. 2, 4 and 9
	Shelmerdine in Shelmerdine 2008: 1-18
	Tartaron 2008: 83-161
	Food for thought
	To what extent environmental factors affect the shaping of cultures and civilizations?
19 June	2. Cultures in Contact: What does it mean?
(Wednesday)	Venue: CYA
(vvcuricsuay)	Description Description
	What do we mean by contact between cultures? Was there a network that developed further during the Late
	Bronze Age? What is the evidence? What was the role of the centres, the king, the merchant in these
	interactions? These are some of the questions that will be raised and discussed during this course in order to
	begin our journey around the Aegean with a strong theoretical background, taking into account all the
	limitations and methodological approaches to the subject.
	Required reading
	Galaty et al. in Parkinson and Galaty 2010: 3-28
	Recommended reading
	Aruz, J. S.B. Graff and Y. Rakic (eds.) (2013)
	Bietak 2013: 188-199
	Papadimitriou 2015: 423-425
	Sherratt in Parkinson and Galaty 2009: 81-106
	Food for thought
	How many ways can you think for an object to move from point A to point B?
	3. Boats and shipwrecks: Crossing the Middle Sea
	Description Description
	As early as the 3rd millennium BC, the peoples of the Aegean and the Cyclades had developed maritime skills,
	as evidenced by the various artefacts and raw materials found. By the 14th century BC, a series of land and sea
	routes had been established, which, in addition to the written sources and the various technological and
	pictorial influences in the local arts, suggest the existence of exchanges that could be called an 'eastern
	Mediterranean Koine'. Shipwrecks, snapshots in time, provide modern archaeology with all kinds of information.
	We will focus on the cases of Uluburun and Cape Gelidonya in southern Turkey and the case of Point Iria and
	Modi in Greece to explore what we can learn about travel, exchange and connectivity by land and sea.
	Required reading
	Bachhuber 2006: 348-351
	Pulak in Aruz <i>et al.</i> 2009: 289-310
	Recommended Reading
	Bass in Cline 2010: 797-803
	Dickinson 1994: 234-256
	Fawcett – Zietsman 2001: 5-20
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Laffineur in Laffineur & Greco 2005: 53-58 Pulak in Cline 2010: 862-876 Food for thought Bronze Age Crete at the crossroads of three continents. What was the role of the sites of Kom Mochlos?	
Food for thought Bronze Age Crete at the crossroads of three continents. What was the role of the sites of Kom Mochlos?	
Bronze Age Crete at the crossroads of three continents. What was the role of the sites of Kom Mochlos?	
Mochlos?	mos and
20 June 4. Mobility, storage, arts in prehistory	
(Thursday) Venue: MCA Description	
Before the vast trade networks and impressive exchange systems of the Late Bronze Age, w	e need to explore
the beginnings of seafaring and the development of the technology that allowed the LBA m	nerchants to travel
long distances. The transport of raw materials dates back to at least the 8th millennium BC,	
the Cyclades are a very informative and diachronic case study in this direction. The island distance maritime trade and at the same time formed a culture known for its pan-Aegea	
approach.	in antinopocentric
Required reading	
Broodbank in Shelmerdine 2008: 47-76	
Pullen 2022: 335-346 Recommended reading	
Betancourt 2007: 9-26	
Bintliff 2012: 102-122	
Sherratt in Galanakis 2013: 84-101	
Preziosi and Hitchcock 1999: 53-57 Renfrew in Cline 2010: 83-98	
Food for thought	
Iconographic evidence of seafaring (e.g. boat types)	
21 June (Friday) 5. Raw materials, finished products, trade and exchange.	
Venue: NAM Description	
The NAM hosts some of the most impressive artefacts from the ancient world. The weapor	ns, gold jewellery,
metal vessels and objects made from exotic raw materials that were used as offerings for the	deceased in burial
circles A and B clearly demonstrate the need for differentiation between social classes,	
hierarchies, and also provide evidence of links between the peoples of the islands, Crete a These interactions are discussed in detail in the context of these spectacular funerary offerings.	
Required reading	
Dickinson 2005: 299-307	
Schofield 2007: 32-47 Recommended Reading	
Barber 1987: 201-223	
Bintliff 2012: 155-180	
Cavanagh in Shelmerdine 2008: 327-341	
Cultraro 2015: 288-296 Pieniazek-Pavuk-Kozal 2018: 375-379	
Wright in Shelmerdine 2009: 230-257	
Food for thought	
The import of exotic objects and raw materials in the Late Bronze Age Aegean.	
22 June Age of the Empire: Egypt in the New Kingdom (Saturday) Venue: NAM	
Description	
The long history of cultural links between the Aegean and Egypt, from the Bronze Age	
discussed in this course through the study of artefacts on display at the NAM. Trade networ facilitate the movement of goods such as raw materials and finished products, but also ideas,	
beliefs. The Egyptian gallery allows us to discuss various aspects of the distinctive New Kingdo	
Required reading	
Bard 2007: 207-216	
Koehl in Aruz <i>et al.</i> 2008: 270-73 Schneider in Aruz <i>et al.</i> 2008: 251-54	
Recommended reading	
Bevan 2007: 100-102, 134-143	
Bietak (ed.) (1994)	
Bietak 2023: 1-7 Gates 2011: Ch. 6	
James 1995: 57-126 (Ch. 4-8)	
Kaltsas 2005 (for the NAM collections)	



	Kemp 1989: Part III
	Manning in Bang and Scheidel 2013: 61-93
	Phillips in Cline 2010: 820-831 Food for thought
	How far back can we trace the earliest evidence of direct contact between the Aegean and Egypt?
23 June	AM: Departure for Thera
(Sunday)	Free Day
24 June	7. When a volcano clears its throat: The "Minoan" eruption and its aftermath
(Monday)	Site visit: Kammenes islands
	Description A boat trip to the islets of Kammenes allows students to learn about the geological history of the island, the
	volcano and the deep blue waters of the caldera. Old and new scientific approaches to the history of the
	volcano and the dating of the eruption are presented.
	Required reading
	Driessen 2019: 195-202
	Wiener 2009: 197-206 Recommended reading
	Friedrich 2013: 37-48
	Hardy et al. 1990: Vol. 2 (various papers on Earth Sciences)
	Vougioukalakis 2013
	Food for thought
25 June	Discuss how the eruption of Theran must have affected the Bronze Age Aegean. 8. Akrotiri: Pompeii of prehistoric Aegean
(Tuesday)	Site visit: Akrotiri, Thera
(Description
	The time has come to explore one of the most amazing archaeological discoveries in the history of the world:
	the city of Akrotiri, buried under tons of volcanic ash, a true "Pompeii of the prehistoric Aegean". The finds at
	Akrotiri provide a crucial understanding of the other Aegean sites through the preservation of entire rooms, in situ wall paintings and important features of Minoan and Cycladic architecture. We will walk along the original
	streets and alleyways to see what a Cycladic Late Bronze Age settlement looked like.
	Required reading
	Doumas in Cline 2010: 752-761
	Palyvou 2000: 413-415, 422-425
	Recommended reading Doumas 1983: 29-42
	Doumas <i>et al.</i> 2015
	Niemeier in Hardy <i>et al.</i> 1990: 267-284
	Manning in Cline 2010: 457-474
	Marinatos Sp. 1971 Marinatos Sp. 1999: Thera I-VII
	Food for thought
	Can you identify any mainland or Minoan elements in the arts of Akrotiri? Which is the direction of the artistic
	influence?
26 June	9. Theran arts and crafts
(Wednesday)	Venue: Museum of Prehistoric Thera
	Description From the current archaeological evidence, we know that Akrotiri was not the only settlement on the island of
	Thera during the Late Cycladic I period. At the same time, thanks to the excavations for the new protective
	roof, it is possible to track down the chronological sequence of Akrotiri down to the Neolithic period. At the
	Museum of Prehistoric Thera at Fira students will be able to see the available material culture and also explore
	in depth various aspects of life of the final phase of Akrotiri. Finally, the direct or indirect contacts between Thera and the Eastern Mediterranean will be discussed in front of the relevant exhibit case.
	Required reading
	Doumas 2013: 180-187
	Marthari 2018: 206-221
	Vlachopoulos 2015: 37-60
	Recommended reading Davis in Cullen 2001: 19-76 (+ addendum Davis et al. 77-94)
	Davis in Culien 2001: 19-76 (+ addendum Davis et al. 77-94) Doumas 1983: 77-124
	Vlachopoulos 2018
	Food for thought
	The eruption of the Thera volcano preserved perishable materials such as food, traces of baskets and furniture.
	Discuss with examples what kind of information we can get and how.



27 June (Thursday)

10. Outside the main settlement

Site visit: Archangelos

Description

The island of Thera is not fully explored and it seems that there are more sites to be identified in the future. One of these sites, only partially explored, is the hill of Archangelos, very close to the modern village of Akrotiri, but clearly outside the area covered by the prehistoric settlement. We will be visiting and exploring this area as only limited excavations took place in 1870.

Required reading

No reading is required

Recommended reading

Davis and Cherry in Hardy et al. 1990: 185-200

Davis in Shelmerdine 2006: 186-208

Dickinson 1994: 45-94 Marthari 2019: 135-139 Tzachili 2005: 231-236

Food for thought

Which other sites (contemporary to Akrotiri) existed on the island of Thera?

11. Architecture and planning: Private & public

Site visit: Akrotiri Description

The town of Akrotiri has provided modern scholarship with a unique opportunity to study in situ buildings up to three storeys high, some with elaborate facades and impressive architectural features such as light wells, staircases and Minoan features like pier-and-door partitions. At the same time, there is a wealth of public spaces, such as squares, alleys and main roads, which provide valuable information about the structure and layout of Middle and Late Bronze Age town planning. We will be able to explore all these aspects within the site itself.

Required reading

Palyvou in Doumas et al. 2015: 29-50

Palyvou 2017: 185-190

Recommended reading

Gates 2011: Ch. 7

Hitchcock in Cline 2010: 189-199

Mee 2011: 69-82

Palyvou 2000: 413-415, 422-425 Sali-Axioti in Hardy *et al.* 1990: 437-440

Food for thought

Habitation and circulation at the site of Akrotiri

Group Presentation (subject 1):

Write a short guide to one of the buildings discovered at Akrotiri. Discuss its construction, architecture, decoration, contents, function and location within the town.

Group Presentation (subject 2):

Write a story based on the Fleet wall-painting of the West House at Akrotiri.

28 June (Friday)

12. Group Project study morning: Small world interactions. Merchants and harbours

Site visit: Akrotiri

Description

Akrotiri was not the only harbour-town to flourish in the Aegean during the Middle and Late Bronze Age. Other sites such as Phylakopi on Melos and Ayia Irini on Keos also flourished, perhaps all of them acting as a bridge between Crete and the Greek Mainland. What can we learn from Akrotiri about prehistoric trade and exchange? What do we need to build a safe harbour? What role did Crete play in the trading activities of the city of Akrotiri?

Required reading

Davis in Shelmerdine 2008: 186-208

Recommended reading

Bintliff 2012: 155-181 Broodbank 2004: 46-50

Brysbaert in Antoniadou and Pace 2007: 325-359

Knappett and Nikolakopoulou 2008: 1-42 Preziosi and Hitchcock 1999: 122-135

Sahoglou 2015: 593-598 Wiener 2013: 149-169

Project details to be announced

PM: Departure for Crete

29 June 13. Minoan arts and crafts



(Saturday) Venue: Archaeological Museum of Heraklion Description The newly renovated Heraklion Museum hosts a large and outstanding collection of artworks, weapons and other material culture from all over Crete, dating from Prehistory to Late Antiquity. We will focus on the prehistoric collection and appreciate the level of sophistication reached by the Minoans, especially during the Neopalatial period, the 'Golden Age' of Minoan Crete, a period contemporary with the last phase of the town of Akrotiri. Required reading Dimopoulou-Rethemiotaki 2005: 297-357 (have a quick look) Recommended reading Betancourt 1985 (Introduction to Minoan pottery) Betancourt 2007: 29-53, 67-108 Blakolmer 2010: 91-108 Blakolmer 2016: 97-110 Immerwahr 1990: 77-104 Evely in Cline 2010: 387-404 Galanakis et al. 2017: 47-98 Hallager in Cline 2010: 405-414 Vlachopoulos 2018 Younger and Rehak in Shelmerdine 2006: 140-164 Food for thought Can you identify any objects that are possibly originating from the Cyclades, Egypt, or the Levant? 30 June 14. A palace and a workshop Site visits: The Palace of Malia and Quartier Mu (Sunday) Description The Palace of Malia, one of the three Minoan sites where a monumental building appears as early as the beginning of the second millennium BC and which preserves some of the most interesting Minoan features of the Protopalatial period, will be the focus of our attention, especially as we will be visiting this site before the Palace of Knossos. Its key location will be discussed in relation to other important Minoan sites. We will then visit the well-preserved remains of the quarter known as 'Quartier Mu' and discuss the presence of workshops in the vicinity of the palaces. Required reading Driessen in Cline 2010: 556-570 Poursat 2010: 259-266 Recommended reading Fitton 2002: Ch. 3-4 Pelon in Driessen et al. 2002: 111-121 (in French) Food for thought The relationship between craftsmen, raw materials and palatial control (e.g. craft specialization) 15. Cemetery and society Site visit: Fourni Archanes Description One of the greatest sources of information about prehistoric societies comes from their cemeteries. The mortuary practices, the burial offerings and the way the Minoans treated their dead reveal a wealth of information about social hierarchies, material culture and technologies, trade and networking, craftsmanship, etc. Using the cemetery of Fourni at Archanes as a case study, with more than 1000 years of continuous use, we will further explore questions concerning the diachronic treatment of the dead in Minoan Crete. Required reading Fitton 2002: 50-54, 189-191 (Fourni cemetery) Recommended reading Maggidis 1998: 87-100 Sakellarakis and Sakellarakis 1997: 152-267 Younger and Rehak in Shelmerdine 2008: 165-85 Food for thought Can you see any changes in the burial practices and in the architecture of the tombs as we move towards the Late Bronze Age? 1 July (Monday) 16. What is a villa? Site visit: Nirou Khani A very special category of buildings, the so-called 'villas', provide us with crucial information about settlement hierarchies and the structure of Minoan society, especially with regard to the political geography of the island. The study of villas and other large complexes provides clues as to how land was used and how administration would have functioned, taking into account the redistributive system of the Minoan economy. Monumentality



and large-scale architecture indicate varying degrees of complexity and contextualized social practices.

Required reading

Fitton 2002: 140-145 (Minoan 'villas')

Hitchcock 1994: 14-41

Recommended reading

Hägg 1997 (ed): Various chapters

Hitchcock 2010: 189-197 Palyvou 2017: 190-201

Food for thought

Consider in a diachronic way the role and place of Knossos in the reconstruction of the political geography of

17. Aspects of everyday life in Minoan Crete

Site visit: Gournia Description

Gournia, in eastern Crete, is remarkably well preserved. It was established as a palatial centre in the Neopalatial period. This part of Crete, including the excavations at Mochlos, Pseira and Priniatikos Pyrgos, has provided remarkable evidence for the Late Bronze Age on the island. The town of Gournia comprises the best and most extensively excavated example of a Minoan town, with a complex system of adjoining houses and alleys, cobbled streets and a palatial structure at the top of the hill. Its main archaeological contribution is that it gives a clear picture of the daily life and occupations of the inhabitants of Late Bronze Age Crete. Its Mycenaean period is also visible, allowing us to draw useful conclusions about the life of everyday Cretans over a long period of time.

Required reading

Preziosi and Hitchcock 1999: 103-105 Buell - McEnroe 2017: 204-225

Recommended reading

Bennet in Galanakis 2013: 102-117 Cadogan in Myers et al. 1992: 104-111

Davaras 1989 Fotou 1993 Smith 2022: 137-146

Watrous et al. 2015: 397-400, 457-459

Food for thought

Compare the site of Gournia with that of Akrotiri and try to identify similarities and differences.

2 July (Tuesday)

18. The 'palaces' of Crete

Site visit: Knossos Description

Despite extensive restoration, the site of Knossos is clearly of a majestic character, highlighting the high level of planning and spatial organisation, skills and technologies of the Minoans. The Great Court, wall paintings, storerooms, workshops and the scale of this palatial complex will be discussed in situ, with emphasis on the links and connections between Knossos, other palatial centres and their Aegean context.

Required reading

MacDonald in Cline 2010: 529-540

Sakellarakis-Sakellaraki 2010 (palace description and images)

Recommended reading

Bintliff 2012: 123-154

Cadogan in Myers et al. 1992: 124-147 Driessen et al. (eds.) 2002: various chapters

Fitton 2002: 66-108

Mountjoy in Cadogan et al. 2004: 399-404 Niemeier in Cadogan et al. 2004: 393-398

Vavouranakis in Antoniadou and Pace (eds.) 2007: 263-289

Watrous in Cullen 2001: 157-223

Food for thought

What are the arguments for and against the Mycenaean "occupation" of Crete?

19. Pottery workshop at Margarites village

3 July

(Wednesday)

20. Minoan political and economic geography

Site visits: Phaistos, Agia Triada and Kommos

Description

Trade has been the lifeblood of several island communities since the 3rd mill. BC. It is also one of the reasons why some settlements have flourished over the centuries. The choice of location is crucial, as the trade routes between the Aegean, Africa and Asia were established from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. Kommos and Phaistos, with its famous Minoan palace overlooking the Mesara plain, are two important sites and we will



	discuss their role within Minoan Crete in this course, as well as the role of Ayia Triadha, which seems to have
	been the most important site in the valley during the Mycenaean period.
	Required reading
	Bennet in Bang and Scheidel 2013: 235-243
	Bevan 2010: 1-4, 19-22
	Recommended reading
	Burns in Cline 2010: 291-304
	Knappett 2012: 384-397
	La Rosa in Myers <i>et al.</i> 1992: 232-243 (Phaistos)
	Preziosi and Hitchcock 1999: 99-103, 112-20, 171-73
	Shaw in Myers <i>et al.</i> 1992: 148-153 (Kommos)
	Shaw 2006: 113-143 (Kommos)
	Shaw and Shaw in Cline 2010: 543-555
	Soles in Laffineur and Greco 2005: 429-439 (Mochlos) Food for thought
	Bronze Age Crete at the crossroads of three continents. Discuss the role of port sites such as Kommos and
	Mochlos.
PM: Departure	
4 July	Free day
(Thursday)	Tree day
5 July (Friday)	21. Introduction to the Mycenaean culture
2 55., (. 1166,)	Venue: CYA
	Description
	The Mycenaean culture dominated the Aegean during the 14th and 13th centuries BC and its manifestations
	first appeared in Argolid and Messenia in the 17th century BC. Closely related to the island of Crete and the
	Cycladic islands, Mycenaean societies created a very distinctive material culture. They had specific burial
	practices, fortified citadels and a very distinctive script, Linear B, which they created and used throughout the
	Mycenaean world for their transactions. Trade played an important role in the economic and political expansion
	of the Mycenaeans. They traded extensively with the Near East for raw materials such as copper, gold and
	ivory. Fine artefacts made from precious materials have been found in the famous Mycenaean tombs and
	tholoi. Large quantities of Mycenaean pottery flooded the markets of Asia Minor, Cyprus and the Levant.
	Required reading
	Davis in Galanakis 2013: 118-131
	Dickinson 2014: 143-157
	Recommended reading
	Bennet 2007: 188-207 Dickinson 1984: 115-117
	Immerwahr 1990: 105-146
	Mee in Shelmerdine 2006: 362-386
	Papazoglou-Manioudaki in Aruz <i>et al.</i> 2009: 274-5
	Preziosi and Hitchcock 1999: 155-190
	Voutsaki 1999: 103-116
	Food for thought
	Why did the early Mycenaeans choose to bury their dead with luxurious offerings and works of art? Is there a
	symbolic meaning behind the offering of weapons?
6 July	AM: Departure for the Peloponnese
(Saturday)	22. Trade makes the world go round
	Site visit: Corinth
	Description
	The city of Corinth will dominate the trade routes in the historical periods. However, we will explore the
	whereabouts and appreciate how the site has been used and inhabited since the Bronze Age and discuss a
	fundamental question: Where is the palace (if there is one)?
	Required reading
	Archaeological museum of Corinth (explore its prehistory)
	https://www.corinth-museum.gr/en/
	Recommended reading
	Tzonou-Herbst 2015: 297-311
	Tzonou-Herbst 2010: 39-49
	23. Citadels of the Mycenaean world (part I)
	Site visit: Mycenae
	Description A visit to the site of Mycenae (and the local museum) will contribute greatly to the understanding of the Aegean
	world in the first phase of the Late Bronze Age. Contemporary with Akrotiri and with several artistic similarities,
	work in the first phase of the Late bronze age. Contemporary with another and with several artistic similarities,



Mycenae is about to expand economically, culturally, politically and perhaps militarily to become a major player in Late Bronze Age affairs. On this field trip we will explore the communities of mainland Greece and compare them with those of Crete and the Cyclades. We will discuss the famous Mycenaean shaft tombs, the citadel with its Cyclopean walls and the Tholos tombs outside.

Required reading

French in Cline 2010: 671-679 (Mycenae)

Bennet 2013: 243-250

Recommended reading

Crowley in Shelmerdine 2006: 258-288

Dickinson 1994: 77-94

Preziosi and Hitchcock 1999: 184-190

Zeman-Dudlik 2023:133-146

Food for thought

Compare the site of Mycenae of the 16th century BC with that of the 13th century BC.

7 July (Sunday)

24. An early palace? Site visit: Lerna Description

The Early Bronze Age (c. 3200-2100 BC) on the mainland is characterised by the intensification of the use of metals for the manufacture of tools and weapons. The result is an increase in production, the creation of a surplus of goods and the development of technologies in the manufacture of products. The need for metals and various raw materials led to the intensification of trade contacts, the development of navigation and the exchange of technological knowledge. Major buildings at sites such as Lerna and Zygouries in the Peloponnese show evidence of pronounced social stratification and potential control of surplus.

Required Reading

Bintillf 2012: 84-92

Recommended reading

Forsén in Cline 2010: 53-65

Preziosi and Hitchcock 1999: 44-47

Wiencke in Cline 2010: 660-670

Food for thought

Do you consider the House of Tiles as a "proto-palace"?

25. Citadels of the Mycenaean world (part II)

Site visit: Tiryns Description

The huge fortification walls that divide the citadel of Tiryns into an upper and a lower town surround an area that includes two megara, halls, greenside entrances, propylae and workshops. Tiryns is another important Mycenaean citadel in the Argolid, close to other major Mycenaean centres such as Mycenae, Midea and Argos. Our main task will be to compare the site with the citadel at Mycenae and discuss its role and purpose given its coastal location and defensive architecture.

Required reading

Maran in Cline 2010: 722- 34 Voutsaki 2010: 600-607

Recommended reading

As in #23

Farmer-Lane 2010: 41-69

Food for thought

Mycenae, Tiryns, Midea and perhaps Argos. At least three fortified citadels in the Argive plain. How do you explain this?

26. Mycenaean arts and crafts

Venue: Archaeological Museum of Nauplion

Description

After exploring two of the Mycenaean citadels of the Argolid, we will look at the material culture of the Mycenaeans as exhibited in the small but impressive museum of Nauplion. The Late Bronze Age of the Argolid will be discussed as we observe and discuss some of the most impressive products of Mycenaean craftsmanship, including a unique (to this day) bronze armour, from the cemetery of Dendra.

Required reading

Betancourt 2007: 155-161, 172-182

Recommended reading

Dickinson 1994: 95-207 Evely in Cline 2010: 387-404

Mountjoy 1993

Petrakis 2022: 405-410



	Pullen 2013: 437-443
	Schofield 2007: 116-143
	Voutsaki in Pullen 2010: 86-111
	Food for thought The Musenseen Aggest keine, Common language, buriel sustems and artwork. Does this mean one kingdom.
	The Mycenaean Aegean koine. Common language, burial customs and artwork. Does this mean one kingdom (or state or polity)?
8 July (Monday)	27. The political geography of the Mycenaean world
o July (Moriday)	Site visit: Midea
	Description Description
	This area is of great interest: an important outpost, with workshops, areas of habitation, several artefacts and a
	massive wall. But there seems to be no Megaron. Can the site of Midea shed light on the thorny issue of
	Mycenaean political geography?
	Required reading
	Bennet in Bang and Scheidel 2013: 243-254
	Bennet 2017: 1-23
	Recommended reading
	Dickinson 2019: 31-46
	Galaty <i>et al.</i> 2014: 449-453
	Parkinson 2010: 15-25
	van Wijngaarden and Driessen for various approaches Food for thought
	Can you compare and contrast Mycenaean Greece with Minoan Crete?
	28. A burial landscape
	Site visit: Dendra cemetery
	Description
	The cemetery of Dendra seems to have been the necropolis of the citadel of Midea, which is very close to the
	site. A large number of chamber tombs and a large tholos tomb have been excavated, allowing scholars to
	study various aspects of Mycenaean mortuary architecture and burial customs and to discuss its material
	manifestations. The bronze cuirass now on display in the Museum of Nauplion was found at the site of Dendra
	(see previous day). Required reading
	Cavanagh in Shelmerdine 2008: 327-341
	Recommended reading
	Dickinson 1994: 222-233
	Mee in Cline 2010: 277-290
	Papadimitriou 2018: 159-183
	Schofield 2007: 164-169
	Wright 2008: 144-150
	Food for thought
0 July (Tuesday)	From which tomb do you think the bronze cuirass came? Think again. 29. Study Day
9 July (Tuesday) 10 July	30. Cyprus: The island of copper
(Wednesday)	Venue: MCA
(1100110000)	Description
	Trade has been the lifeblood of many island communities since the 3rd millennium BC. It is also one of the
	reasons why some settlements have flourished over the centuries. The choice of location is crucial, as the trade
	routes between the Aegean, Africa and Asia were more or less established from the Middle Bronze Age
	onwards. Cyprus played an important role in the trade of goods and raw materials, and this visit to the MCA's
	Cypriot collection will illustrate how objects, technologies and people moved around the coasts of the Eastern
	Mediterranean. Required reading
	Sherratt in Steiner and Killebrew 2014: 497-508
	Steel in Steiner and Killebrew 2014: 577-591
	Recommended reading
	Bevan 2007: 8-39
	Burns in Cline 2010: 291-304
	Dickinson 1994: 234-256
	Gates 2011: Ch. 8
	Knapp 2013: 348-476
	La Rosa in Myers <i>et al.</i> 1992: 232-243
	Papadimitriou in Papadopoulos 2012: 79-91
	Shaw 2006: 113-143 (Kommos) Shaw in Myors at at 1993: 148-153
	Shaw in Myers <i>et al.</i> 1992: 148-153



Shaw and Shaw in Cline 2010: 543-555 Soles in Laffineur and Greco 2005: 429-439 (Mochlos) Food for thought The economic relationship between the Aegean and Cyprus on the basis of the available material evidence. Optional visit to the Acropolis of Athens and the New Acropolis Museum 11 July 31. Ugarit: A thriving port-of-trade (Thursday) Description Ugarit, an important economic centre and port of trade, flourished during the New Kingdom period. In addition to its rich material culture, the discovery of written archives provides important information about the city itself, its population and the role of the merchants. We will focus on this harbor town, a true melting pot, to further discuss international and trade relations in the Middle East during this period. Required reading Luciani in Steiner and Killebrew 2014: 509-523 Margueron in Aruz et al. 2008: 236-238 Food for thought Merchants as private entrepreneurs and state officials 32. Gifts and Diplomacy in the Eastern Mediterranean Venue: CYA Description The nature of the links between the Aegean and the East will be explored through both material culture and (limited) textual evidence. The well-known Amarna Letters will be discussed in this course, as they provide a unique insight into the thoughts and dialogues of the rulers of the Late Bronze Age, in which the Aegean peoples are almost absent. However, it is crucial to understand how societies communicated on a diplomatic level and the exchange of luxury gifts would certainly have maintained a certain balance between the different states (even though some famous battles took place between them). Required reading Cline in Aruz et al. 2013: 26-33 Spar in Aruz et al. 2008: 168-169 Recommended reading Aruz *et al*. 2008 Aruz et al. 2013 Knapp 1993: 332-343 Mantzourani et al. 2017: 95-116 Rehak 1998: 39-49 Food for thought What was the role of the Aegean societies in the club of the great powers of the 14th and 13th centuries BC? 12 July (Friday) 33. Redefining an 'International Koine' Venue: CYA Description Over the past few weeks we have been exploring the different cultures that flourished in this part of the world during the 2nd millennium BC. Can we speak of a complex system of beliefs and practices that all these societies shared at some point and to some extent? Can we use a term like 'international koine'? How do people choose their symbols, traditions and customs? Is there space for regional preferences and differentiations in these busy times? Required reading Feldman 2002: 6-29 Food for thought Can you see common artistic elements (e.g. symbols, features) in all the cultures discussed? 34. The end of the Bronze Age Venue: CYA Description The Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean underwent widespread change due to the collapse of political systems in the late 13th and 12th centuries BC. Several theories and hypotheses have been proposed to explain these radical changes and these will be explored in this course. However, life goes on and a very interesting post-palatial period seems to be emerging, the Late Helladic IIIC, which will be our focus. Required reading Schofield 2007: 170-185 Recommended reading Barber 1987: 224-246 Bintliff 2012: 209-233 Cline 2014: Ch. 4 & 5 Deker-Jakoltzy in Shelmerdine 2008: 387-415



Dickinson 2006: 10-23, 24-57, 58-78
Dickinson 2009: 483-489
Maran 2009: 241-257
Vlachopoulos 2008: 479-91
Food for thought
Were the catastrophes of the major administrative centres of the Aegean region simultaneous and caused by the same cause?

Total sessions: 34 Total contact hours: 60

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APPENDIX I

Scoring Rubric for class participation

Points	5	4	3	2	1
Performance during classes(*)	Attends class regularly and always contributes to the discussion	Attends class regularly and frequently contributes to the	Attends class regularly and sometimes contributes to the	Attends class regularly and rarely contributes to the discussion	Attends class regularly and never contributes to the discussion
		discussion	discussion		

Contribution in the discussion is defined as:

- 1. raising relevant questions
- 2. discussing relevant issues
- 3. expanding the class' perspective
- 4. providing alternative interpretations and ideas
- 5. synthesizing data from previous classes
- 6. Refer to the readings

You are also expected to participate lively (level 1-5) in all activities.

(*) You are expected to attend all classes

Scoring Rubric for Oral Presentations

Category	Scoring Criteria	Points	Score
	The type of presentation is appropriate for the class and the relevant	1-5	
Organization	audience.		
(15 points)	Information is presented in a logical sequence.	1-5	
	Presentation has a beginning, a middle part and an end	1-5	
	Introduction is attention-getting, lays out the problem well, and establishes a framework for the rest of the presentation.	1-5	
Content	Technical terms are well-defined in language appropriate for the target audience.	1-5	
(45 points)	Presentation contains accurate and correct information.	1-10	
	Material included is relevant to the overall topic	1-10	
	Selection of case study (e.g. a specific artefact) relevant to the topic	1-10	
	There is a clear conclusion summarizing the presentation.	1-5	
	Speaker maintains good eye contact with the audience and is appropriately animated (e.g., gestures, moving around, etc.).	1-5	
	Speaker uses a clear, audible voice.	1-5	
Presentation	Delivery is poised, controlled, and smooth.	1-5	
(30 points)	Good language skills and pronunciation are used.	1-5	
	Visual aids are well prepared, informative, effective, and not distracting.	1-5	
	Length of presentation is within the assigned time limits.	1-5	
Response	Speaker understood the questions and responded in a clear and organized	1-10	
(10 points)	manner		
Score	Total Points	100	

Comments:



Scoring Rubric for Research Papers

	(A-/A/A+)	(B-/B/B+)	(C-/C/C+)	(D-/D/D+)	(F)
Research	Clearly stated and	Clearly stated but	Argument phrasing too	Research lacks a clear	Question not evident
question/	appropriately focused	focus could have been	simple, lacks complexity;	objective and/or does	
topic		specific	or, not clearly worded	not match content of	
				essay	
Supporting	Thorough and relevant	Less thorough but	Adequate; relevance	Insufficient; relevance	Irrelevant, missing, or
Research		still substantial and	made clear	not always made clear	relies on assertion
		relevant			rather than research
Content	Sharp, distinct focus;	Clear focus; specific,	Adequate focus, but	Essay contains too	Absence of focus and
ઝ	balanced, substantial,	illustrative, and	unbalanced content; more	much research	relevant content;
analysis	specific, and/or	balanced content	analysis needed	information without	content does not match
	illustrative content;			analysis or commentary	the question
	sophisticated, with ideas			22	
	particularly well-				
	developed				
Organization	Clearly controlled	Logical and	Organization attempted,	Inconsistent	Absence of planned
	and/or subtle	appropriate	but unclear or	organization. No use of	organization. No use of
	organization; strong	organization; clear	inappropriate theme	illustrations	illustrations
	topic sentences. Great	topic sentences. Good	sentences. Limited use of		
	use of illustrations	use of illustrations	illustrations		
References	All sources are	All sources are	Most sources are	Several sources lack	Sources are not
	accurately documented	documented, but a	documented, but many	proper documentation	accurately documented
	and cited	few are not in the	are not in the desired		7
		desired format	format		