

**ARCH 361 | THE TOPOGRAPHY AND MONUMENTS OF ATHENS
SPRING 2025**

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Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive overview of the topography, archaeology and history of Athens from the earliest prehistoric settlement through to the demise of the city in Late Antiquity, focusing particularly on the monuments and culture of the Archaic to Roman periods. It is designed for students with a background in Classics/Ancient History/Classical Archaeology and explores many of the sites and themes they will have been introduced to in earlier courses at their home institutions.

Classes are taught on-site and cover all the major (and many minor) sites around Athens, giving a complete picture of the ancient city in its urban, social, religious, and historical contexts.

One of the main aims of the course is to investigate how an understanding of the physical fabric of Athens can inform important historical questions about Athenian Democracy, Empire, religion, political and social life. The course will also place Athenian sites and monuments into their modern setting, exploring the discovery of ancient Athens from the earliest modern travelers in the 15th century AD to the origins of scientific excavations in the 19th century, and will look at how ancient Athens is being excavated and preserved today.

Learning Objectives

This course will primarily teach students to:

- Identify the remains of ancient Athens beneath and around the modern city
- Use a wide variety of primary sources to illuminate the physical remains of Athens, including literary texts, inscriptions, archaeological data, and coins
- Analyze modern bibliography on Athenian monuments and assess scholars' interpretations of them
- Examine the archaeological evidence from the major sites of the city, such as the Acropolis, and place it within its historical contexts
- Evaluate the role of state and foreign archaeologists in the creation of our picture of the ancient Athenians, and the presentation of them through objects and displays in national museums

Course Requirements

Students must previously have taken courses in Classics, Ancient History, or Classical Archaeology, preferably with a background in 5th century BC Athenian culture, Greek history or Classical art, architecture and archaeology (please contact the tutor if you have questions about eligibility).

CYA Attendance Policy

CYA regards attendance in class and on-site (in Athens or during field study trips) as essential, so attendance at all scheduled meetings is required. All absences are recorded and have consequences that may affect your grade.

Class Contribution and commitment 15% – Student attendance of all classes is mandatory; we will not wait for late-comers, so please be on time at the stipulated meeting point. It is your responsibility to make sure you know where the meeting point is and how long it will take you to find it. Continued lateness will harm your grade. In view of the nature of this course, which is based upon on-site instruction, no unexcused absences are allowed. Students are also expected to participate in classes, and so make sure they are well-rested for these early morning meetings, it is not enough to turn up only in body!

Most meetings will be held on sites, which we can enter for free as a group. Be on time! If you are late and have to enter individually, you may be charged the standard rate. As a precaution, always bring your student ID and ICOMOS pass. Bad weather will not cancel classes, so check the forecast in advance and be prepared for rain and wind with appropriate warm clothing, umbrella or waterproofs.

Please note: Guests are not permitted to attend the classes.

- Midterm Exam 25% – The exam (Thursday March 13) will consist of a series of excavation/architectural plans with associated questions on sites covered in the first half of the semester. The plans will be taken from the class readings

and course booklet.

- Rescue excavation report 20% – Students will choose a major rescue excavation from recent years in Athens that has visible results today and write a report on why the excavation happened, what was found, how that links in with the wider history of the area, and how the antiquities were subsequently displayed. You can, for example, choose one of the metro excavation sites, or the salvage excavation for the site of the New Acropolis Museum. The report should be around 1500 words. DEADLINE: Friday February 14.
- On-site presentation 40% – Each student will give a presentation about a specific monument or site, which will then be turned into a written report by the end of the semester. Presentations should be approximately 15-20 minutes long, covering all aspects of the archaeology and history of the monument. Students must be prepared to talk in a freehand manner, although consulting notes is of course allowed. Presentations should be rehearsed beforehand as students need to be familiar with the site they will guide the class around. Students are expected to prepare appropriate handouts for the class, illustrated with architectural plans and other relevant images and bullet-point notes they choose to emphasize. Typically, 2-4 pages of A4 will suffice.

The object is to focus the student's research skills by following up the publication history of a monument, and to improve public speaking skills, which can be more complicated on-site than in traditional classroom presentations. The presentation will be graded on the student's ability to link what they have read with the material on the ground, their style and ability to communicate, their performance in dealing with questions, and the usefulness of their handout. A more formal, written version of the presentation (around 3000 words) will be handed in at the end of the semester, responding to questions raised as well as further bibliography met with during the course.

Policy on Assignments and Make-up Work

Details about assignments and exams will be given in advance. I will accept no late assignments or make-up exams unless discussed with me in advance. If you are unable to come to class, please let me know beforehand.

CYA Policies and Regulations

Academic Accommodations

Students are required to submit an official letter from the office at their school that handles academic accommodations (generally the Office of Disability Services), or to have that office send a letter. Students who have submitted such a letter to CYA should also talk to their professors individually to discuss how these accommodations will work in each specific course.

Site Visits and Accessibility

This course contains specific physical and spatial elements that are crucial to student learning and which cannot be modified. Students should be aware of these before enrolling in the course.

- This course requires that students walk each class, usually over uneven ground and hilly terrain.
- This course meets frequently at sites with limited or no access to bathroom facilities.
- This course frequently meets in spaces where there is significant background noise while the professor speaks.
- This course requires students to give a verbal individual presentation in front of the class as part of their assessment.

ePolicy on Original Work

Plagiarism is literary theft. As such, it is a serious offense which will not be tolerated either at your home institution or at CYA. Plagiarism on an examination or in a paper will result in an F for the course. You must cite the author of any and all ideas that you use that is neither common knowledge nor your own idea. If you are in doubt, it is safest to cite the source. Your work should be original and reflect your own ideas and thoughts. If you are unsure about what counts as original work, please consult your professor and check the Student Handbook.

Use of Laptops

In-class or onsite use of laptops is not permitted or possible during the majority of site visits.

Upgrade to 400-level course

Courses can be upgraded to a 400-level. This constitutes usually 25% additional work on the part of the student. The option to upgrade opens the second week of classes. If you are interested in this option, please talk to your professor.

Class Schedule

Class	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Meeting point
	Jan 23-24	Field Study Delphi and Olympia
1	Tue Jan 28	Introduction to the course and the syllabus. Meet: classroom
2	Thur Jan 30	The topography of the city and plain of Athens from Philopappos Hill. Meet: On Dionysiou Areopagitou, the pedestrianized street around the Acropolis, where it begins from Amalias Avenue, opposite the Arch of Hadrian. Class reading: Camp (2001) chapter 1; <i>Cambridge Companion</i> chapter 2: S. Fachard, Asty and Chora: City and Countryside, pp. 21-34.
3	Tue Feb 4	The Acropolis from Mycenaean Palace to the Persian Wars. Meet: Acropolis main west entrance. Class reading: Camp (2001) chapters 2 and 3; Hurwit (1999) chapter 4. Extra reading: K. Glowacki, The Acropolis of Athens before 566 B.C., in K. Hartswick and M. Sturgeon (eds), <i>STEPHANOS: Papers in honor of Brunilde Sismondo Ridgway</i> , Philadelphia, 1998, 79–88 (Moodle).
4	Thur Feb 6	The Acropolis from the Persian Wars to the mid-fifth century BC. Meet: Acropolis main west entrance. Class reading: Hurwit (1999) chapter 7. Extra reading: G. Ferrari, The Ancient Temple on the Acropolis at Athens, <i>American Journal of Archaeology</i> 106 (2002) 11-35 (Moodle).
5	Fri Feb 7 MAKEUP T/TH	Acropolis Museum: Archaic monuments and the Persian Wars. Meet: 09.00 at Acropolis Museum entrance. Class reading: Hurwit (1999) chapters 5 and 6. Extra reading: N. Klein, The Architecture of the Athenian Acropolis before Perikles, in K. Daly (ed.), <i>Cities Called Athens</i> , 2015, 137-163 (Moodle); A. Stewart, The Persian and Carthaginian Invasions of 480 B.C.E. and the Beginning of the Classical Style: Part 1, The Stratigraphy, Chronology, and Significance of the Acropolis Deposits, <i>American Journal of Archaeology</i> 112 (2008) 377-412 (Moodle).
6	Tue Feb 11	Acropolis: The Parthenon. Meet: Acropolis main west entrance. Class reading: Camp (2001) 74-82; Hurwit (1999) chapter 8.
7	Thur Feb 13	Acropolis: The Propylaia, west entrance to the Acropolis, and the Athena Nike sanctuary. Meet: Acropolis main west entrance. Class reading: Camp (2001) 82-92; Hurwit (1999) chapter 9.
	Feb 18-21	Field Study Peloponnese
8	Tue Feb 25	Acropolis: The Erechtheion, smaller monuments. Meet: Acropolis main west entrance. Class reading: Camp (2001) 90-100.
9	Thur Feb 27	Acropolis Museum: The Periclean building program and its sculpture. Meet: 09.00 at Acropolis Museum. Class reading: Hurwit (1999) chapter 9
10	Tue Mar 4	Acropolis Slopes I: Sanctuary of Dionysos and choragic monuments. Meet: Theatre of Dionysos entrance opposite the Acropolis Museum. Class reading: Travlos (1971) on Dionysos Sanctuary.
11	Thur Mar 6	Acropolis Slopes II: Odeion of Herodes Atticus, Asklepieion, peripatos. Meet: Acropolis main west entrance. Class reading: Travlos (1971) on Odeion of Herodes Atticus, Asklepieion.
12	Tue Mar 11	The Walls of Athens: a walking tour. Meet: Outside Theseio metro station. Class reading: A. M. Theodoraki, 'The Ancient Circuit Wall of Athens: Its Changing Course and the Phases of Construction,' <i>Hesperia</i> 80 (2011) 71-156 (Moodle).
13	Thur Mar 13	Midterm exam. Meet: Classroom
	Mar 18-22	Field Study Northern Greece
14	Thur Mar 27	The Agora I: general introduction and early history. Meet: Agora main gate on Adrianou. Class reading: Camp (1992) Chapters 1-2.
15	Fri Mar 28 MAKEUP T/TH	The Agora II: The Classical period. Meet: Agora main gate on Adrianou.

Class	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Meeting point
		Class reading: Camp (1992) Chapter 3.
16	Tue Apr 1	The Agora III: The Hellenistic and Roman periods. Meet: Agora main gate on Adrianou. Class reading: Camp (1992) Chapter 4.
17	Thur Apr 3	Kerameikos I: General Topography. Meet: Kerameikos entrance on Ermou. Class reading: <i>Cambridge Companion</i> chapter 10: T. Shea, The Archaic and Classical Cemeteries, pp. 140-158.
18	Tue Apr 8	Kerameikos II: The Cemetery Meet: Kerameikos entrance on Ermou. Class reading: <i>Cambridge Companion</i> chapter 11: D. L. Kellogg, Population and Social Structure, pp. 159-172; and chapter 12: C. B. Patterson, The Athenian Family, pp. 173-187
19	Thur Apr 10	The Areopagos and Philopappos hills. Meet: Corner of Dionysiou Areopagitou and Apostolou Pavlou. Class reading: Sections in Travlos (1971) on Areopagos, Philopappos
	Apr 11-21	Spring recess
20	Tue Apr 22	The Pnyx, deme site of Koile, and hill of the Nymphs. Meet: Corner of Dionysiou Areopagitou and Apostolou Pavlou. Class reading: M. H. Hansen, The Athenian Ecclesia and the Assembly-Place on the Pnyx, <i>Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies</i> 23 (1982) 241-249 (Moodle).
21	Thur Apr 24	The Epigraphic Museum Meet: 09.15 at Epigraphic Museum, Tositsa Street, next to the National Archaeological Museum. Class reading: <i>Cambridge Companion</i> chapter 7: E. A. Meyer, Athenian Inscriptions, pp. 98-109.
22	Tue Apr 29	The Ilissos valley. Meet: outside CYA. Class reading: Travlos (1971) on Ilissos Area, Artemis Agrotera, Hadrian, Olympian Zeus.
23	Tue May 6	Roman Athens: The Roman Agora, Library of Hadrian. Meet: outside Monastiraki metro station on the square. Class reading: Camp (2001) chapter 7; <i>Cambridge Companion</i> chapter 30: D. K. Rogers, Roman Athens, pp. 421-436.
24	Thur May 8	Byzantine and Ottoman Athens. Meet: outside the Monastiraki metro station on the square. Class reading: Camp (2001) chapter 7 & epilogue.

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *Cambridge Companion*: J. Neils & D. K. Rogers eds, *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Athens*, Cambridge 2021.
- Camp, J. McK. (2001) *The Archaeology of Athens*. New Haven & London. This is a student textbook with chapters on historical periods and then a useful glossary of sites at the back with plans and further reading.
- Travlos, J. (1971) *The Pictorial Dictionary of Ancient Athens*. New York. This is a monumental work of Athenian topography, site by site, and should be consulted for all monuments we visit. Travlos' extensive bibliographies are updated in J. Travlos, *Bildlexikon zur Topographie des antiken Attika* (Tübingen, Germany: Ernst Wasmuth Verlag, 1988), pp. 23-51, but since then many new excavations and studies have to be taken into account.
- Hurwit, J. M. (1999) *The Athenian Acropolis*. Cambridge. A huge work covering the whole history of the Acropolis. A smaller version, although more thorough on the High Classical monuments is:
- Hurwit, J. M. (2004) *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles*. Cambridge.
- Camp, J. McK. (1992, revision of 1986) *The Athenian Agora*. London. The main archaeological guide to the Agora by its current excavator.
- Camp, J. McK. (2010) *The Athenian Agora Site Guide*. Princeton. A tourist guide monument by monument through the Agora.
- Gawlinksi, L. (2014) *The Athenian Agora Museum Guide*. Princeton.
- Thompson, H. A. and R. E. Wycherley (1972) *The Athenian Agora*, volume XIV: *The Agora of Athens*. Princeton. The major work on the American excavations of the Agora up until ca. 1970, very detailed on all monuments.
- Knigge, U. 1991. *The Athenian Kerameikos*. Athens. The main archaeological guide to the site by its former director.
- Forsén, B. and G. Stanton (eds) (1996) *The Pnyx in the History of Athens*. Athens. A collection of useful essays on the topography and history of the Pnyx.
- Hoff, M. C. and S. I. Rotroff (eds) (1997) *The Romanization of Athens*. Oxbow Monographs. Useful collection of articles on Roman Athens and the influence of Rome on the city.

-Stampolidis, N. and L. Parlama (eds) (2000) *Athens: The city beneath the city: Antiquities from the Metropolitan Railway excavations*. London and New York. Exhibition catalogue and description of the huge series of excavations undertaken for the construction of the metro.

A website devoted to the topography of Athens has been compiled by Kevin T. Glowacki with many plans, essays, and photos: <http://www.stoa.org/athens/index.html>

The latest excavations to be reported in the press or published by excavators in Athens are translated into a digest and added to the searchable online database *Archaeology in Greece Online* (<http://www.chronique.efa.gr/>) by the British and French Schools at Athens. You can search for types of object, period, site type, or search for a particular word (so, for example, you might want to see if any new work has been done on the walls of Athens: search Athens – fortifications – Archaic/Classical/Hellenistic etc.) More synthetic essays about recent excavations and trends in archaeology have been produced from these online reports in the printed versions called *Archaeology in Greece*, a section of the journal *Archaeological Reports*, which is published by the British School at Athens and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies and is also available through JSTOR.

A selection of the bibliography and other resources are available in the course's Moodle pages, which will be updated regularly.