

## **ARCT | ARTH366 | Greek Architecture From The Archaic To The Roman Times As Reflected In The Monuments Of Athens Spring 2025**

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### **Course Description**

The development of monumental ancient Greek architecture is very finely represented in the surviving monuments of ancient Athens from the 6th century to the conventional end of Antiquity in mainland Greece (end of 3d c. A.D.). The course will profit of the physical contact with the Athenian monuments for an introduction to the major architectural currents in the Greek World between the 6th c. B.C. and the 2nd c. A.D.

The remains of 6th c. B.C. *poros* buildings on the Acropolis are fine specimens of the archaic architecture current in the Greek mainland, while the initial colossal Doric order of the temple of Zeus Olympios allude to the colossal Doric temples of Magna Graecia (southern Italy and Sicily).

The building activity which marks the first decades of Athenian democracy (after 510 B.C.) can be traced in the remains of buildings destroyed by the Persians or simply replaced by the surviving buildings which comprise the so-called Periclean project (2nd half of 5th c. B.C.). These buildings, namely the Parthenon, the Propylaea, the Erechtheion and the temple of Athena Nike, have been commonly considered until the present day as the unrivalled masterpieces of architectural heritage. The theatre of Dionysos, in close relationship with sanctuaries and other sites on the southern slope of the Acropolis, was the first Greek theatre built in stone. Fine classical buildings survive in the Athenian Agora--the Agora as a whole being a unique monument of ancient Greek urban function and design.

The monuments donated to the city of Athens by the kings of Pergamon and the revival of the Zeus Olympios temple project (2nd c. B.C.), which now started being built in the Corinthian order, are among the most impressive remains reflecting the Hellenistic "Koine" (a term used for the Greek spoken all over the Hellenistic world, in opposition to the older local Greek dialects) architectural language.

The architecture of Athens retained always a distinctive "Attic" flavor throughout the Hellenistic and Roman times. For this reason, the course will go through the Athenian monuments dating from the years of the Roman rule, like the Agora of Augustus (1st c. B.C.) including the so-called tower of the Winds), and will end with the Hadrianic monuments of Athens (2nd c. A.D.).

### **Learning Objectives**

The students are introduced to the basic principles of ancient Greek architecture concerning forms, structure, and social significance.

In six class sessions, the students become familiar with the -so to say- grammar and syntax of the architectural orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and others), public building types, structures, and the relevant terminology that is indispensable for the understanding and definition of the buildings and their parts.

During the sessions held at the archaeological sites of Athens, the knowledge gained in classes is projected on the real body of the monuments of Athens. Real issues of the theoretical knowledge gained in class are explored through discussions and comparisons, in an effort to restore the topographical, historical and social context which influenced the creation and the evolution of classical architecture.

In the end, the above experience is projected on the neoclassical architecture of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the historic center of Athens.

By the end of the course students should be able to reflect on the parallel architectural movements in Europe and the USA, and analyze-evaluate the similarities and differences between the original model and the modern manifestations of classical architecture.

### **Course Requirements**

Please keep notes during class. This is essential because the kind of approach on the various topics presented during classes is not to be found in the available readings. You must be prepared during classes to make your own freehand drawings for some architectural elements or buildings. You are also encouraged strongly to participate in class, ask questions, and/or add your own observations on the issue. An essay will be presented in the middle of each term, the latest a week before the midterm exams. They will have to be critical presentations of a chosen topic, with emphasis on the personal approach of each student. The Midterm and Final Exams will be based on the material available in

class and the required readings. Papers and exams will be discussed in class. Please feel free to ask for assistance and make an appointment with the Academic Writing Lab.

*All assignments* must be completed to obtain credit for the course.

## Grading and Evaluation

Class Participation 30%

Papers 10%+10%

Midterm Exam 20%

Final Exam 30%

Grades are intended to give you a sense of the quality of a particular piece of work: roughly speaking, a B means that you have done a good job with the writing, the ideas, and the organization of the work; a C conveys that the work lacks some important qualities and has some problems, while an A means that the work is exemplary in some key ways: the writing is particularly clear, the ideas thoroughly treated, the organization of the presentation well considered and effective.

**Class Participation:** Your attendance and in-class writing and analysis – is vitally important to your success in this course.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to report for classes promptly. CYA regards attendance in class and onsite as essential. Absences are recorded and have consequences.

**Policy on Original Work:** Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you are a registered (with your home institution) student with a disability and you are entitled to learning accommodation, please inform the Vice President for Academic Affairs and make sure that your school forwards the necessary documentation.

## Books, Course Materials, Moodle

The following books provide a panorama of Ancient Greek Architecture and are recommended, especially DINSMOOR, FLETCHER, LAWRENCE and TRAVLOS, for further reading on this topic. After the title of the sessions topic, the relevant abbreviated titles and page numbers are given; these consist the body for required reading.

### CAMP

Camp, John Mck. *The Athenian Agora: excavations in the heart of classical Athens*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1992.

Camp, John Mck. *The Archaeology of Athens*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.

### COULTON

Coulton, J.J. *Greek architects at work: problems of structure and design*. London: Elek, 1977.

### DINSMOOR

Dinsmoor, William Bell. *The architecture of ancient Greece: an account of its historic development*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1975.

### FLETCHER

Fletcher, Banister. *A history of architecture*. London: Routledge, 1975. Pages 192-238.

### LAWRENCE

Lawrence, A.W. *Greek architecture*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996.

### ROBERTSON

Robertson, D.S. *Greek and Roman architecture*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1974.

### SCRANTON

Scranton, Robert. *Greek architecture*. New York: George Braziller, 1972.

### TANOULAS

Tanoulas T. "Study for the Restoration of the Propylaea." In *Study for the restoration of the Propylaea* by T. Tanoulas, M. Ioannidou and A. Moraitou. Athens: Ministry of Culture, Committee for the Preservation of the Acropolis Monuments, 1994. Pages 187-208.

### TRAVLOS

Travlos, John. *Pictorial dictionary of ancient Athens*. New York: Hacker Art Books, 1980.

### WHITE

White, K.D. *Greek and Roman technology*. London: NCROL, 1986.

### WYCHERLEY

Wycherley, R.E. *The stones of Athens*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978.

## Class Schedule

### SESSION 1 (January 28, Tue)

Classroom.

-Introductions.

- Introduction to topic and sources for study.

-Introduction to a vocabulary of Ancient Greek Architecture: the architectural orders.

Classroom CB-3.

FLETCHER, 202-242.

DINSMOOR, 386-397 (Glossary).

LAWRENCE, 14-15, 123-185, 222-227.

ROBERTSON, 62-162, 379-390 (Glossary).

## **SESSION 2 (January 30, Thu)**

*Classroom.*

*Introduction to a vocabulary of Ancient Greek Architecture:*

*-The architectural orders, II.*

*-Elements of materials and structure I.*

Classroom CB-3.

FLETCHER, 202-242.

DINSMOOR, 164-179, 386-397 (Glossary).

The following are suggested for further reading.

LAWRENCE, 14-15, 123-185, 222-227.

ROBERTSON, 62-162, 379-390 (Glossary).

COULTON, 141-160.

WHITE, 73-90.

WHYCHERLEY, 267-277.

## **SESSION 3 (February 4, Tue)**

*Classroom. Introduction to a vocabulary of Ancient Greek Architecture: elements of materials and structure, II.*

Classroom CB-3.

COULTON, 141-160.

DINSMOOR, 164-179.

WHITE, 73-90.

WHYCHERLEY, 267-277.

## **SESSION 4 (February 6, Thu)**

*Classroom.*

*Building types and group design.*

Classroom CB-3

COULTON, 141-160.

DINSMOOR, 164-179.

WHITE, 73-90.

WHYCHERLEY, 267-277.

SCRANTON, 23 ff.

## **SESSION 5 (February 7, Fri)**

*Classroom. Athenian buildings from the 6th c. B.C. to the 2nd c. A.D.*

Classroom CB-3.

TRAVLOS, 158-179.

## **SESSION 6 (February 11, Tue)**

*Classroom. Athenian buildings from the 6th c. B.C. to the 2nd c. A.D.*

Classroom CB-3.

TRAVLOS, 158-179.

## **SESSION 7 (February 13, Thu)**

*Acropolis. Archaic and early classical buildings.*

Meeting point: tickets control at the west end of the Acropolis.

TRAVLOS, 52-71, 143-147, 228-260.

## **SESSION 8 (February 25, Tue)**

*Acropolis. The architecture of the Parthenon, I.*

Meeting point: tickets control at the west end of the Acropolis.

DINSMOOR, 157-181.

LAWRENCE, 190-204.

TRAVLOS, 444-457.

## **SESSION 9 (February 27, Thu)**

*Acropolis. The architecture of the Parthenon, II.*

Meeting point: tickets control at the west end of the Acropolis.

DINSMOOR, 157-181.

LAWRENCE, 190-204.  
TRAVLOS, 444-457.

**SESSION 10 (March 4, Tue)**

*Acropolis. The architecture of the Propylaea I. Building procedure, structure, tools.*

Meeting point: tickets control at the west end of the Acropolis.

DINSMOOR, 199-205.  
LAWRENCE, 204-210.  
TANOULAS, 187-208.  
TRAVLOS, 482-493.

**SESSION 11 (March 6, Thu)**

*Acropolis. The architecture of the Propylaea etc., II.*

Meeting point: tickets control at the west end of the Acropolis.

DINSMOOR, 199-205.  
LAWRENCE, 204-210.  
TRAVLOS, 482-493.

**SESSION 12 (March 11, Tue)**

*Acropolis. The architecture of the Propylaea III. Building procedure, structure, tools etc.*

Meeting point: tickets control at the west end of the Acropolis.

DINSMOOR, 199-205.  
LAWRENCE, 204-210.  
TANOULAS, 187-208.  
TRAVLOS, 482-493.

**SESSION 13 (March 13, Thu)**

*Acropolis. Propylaea and its surroundings. The temple of Athena Nike.*

Meeting point: tickets control at the west end of the Acropolis.

DINSMOOR, 199-205, 185-187.  
LAWRENCE, 210-12.  
TRAVLOS, 482-493, 148-157.

**SESSION 14 (March 27, Thu)**

*Acropolis. The architecture of the Erechtheion.*

Meeting point: tickets control at the west end of the Acropolis

DINSMOOR, 187-195.  
LAWRENCE, 212-221.  
TRAVLOS, 213-227.  
WHYCHERLEY, 143-154.

**SESSION 15 (March 28, Fri)**

*Acropolis. Lesser buildings on and around the Acropolis. The walls, the Chalkotheke, the Brauronion, the western access etc.*

Meeting point: tickets control at the west end of the Acropolis.

DINSMOOR, 197-198.  
TRAVLOS, 52-71, 124-126, 196-192, 494-497.  
WHYCHERLEY, 105-141.

**SESSION 16 (April 1, Tue)**

*The Acropolis Museum: models, drawings and architectural fragments of the Acropolis monuments.*

Meeting point: left exit of the Acropolis Metro Station, street level, 2 Makriyanni street.

**SESSION 17 (April 3, Thu)**

*Buildings of the southern slope of the Acropolis, I.*

Meeting point: left exit of the Acropolis Metro Station, street level, 2 Makriyanni street.

TRAVLOS, 127-147, 348-351, 357-361, 378-391, 523-526, 537-552, 562- 568.  
WHYCHERLEY, 203-218.

**SESSION 18 (April 8, Tue)**

*Buildings of the southern slope of the Acropolis, II.*

Meeting point: left exit of the Acropolis Metro Station, street level, 2 Makriyanni street.

TRAVLOS, 127-147, 348-351, 357-361, 378-391, 523-526, 537-552, 562- 568.  
WHYCHERLEY, 203-218.

**SESSION 19 (April 10, Thu)**

*Buildings of the Athenian Agora. I.*

Meeting point: north entrance of the Agora, on Adrianou str.

CAMP, 76-107.

TRAVLOS, 1-27, 104-111, 191-195, 210-212, 261-273, 352-356, 365-377,  
519, 527-533, 553-561.

458-461, 505-

**SESSION 20 (April 22, Tue)**

*Buildings of the Athenian Agora. II.*

Meeting point: north entrance of the Agora, on Adrianou str.

CAMP, 76-107.

TRAVLOS, 1-27, 104-111, 191-195, 210-212, 261-273, 352-356, 365-377,  
519, 527-533, 553-561.

458-461, 505-

**SESSION 21 (April 24, Thu)**

*Buildings of the Agora of Caesar and Augustus.*

Meeting point: Entrance of the site of Hadrian's Library, 3 Areos str. and Adrianou street, south off the Monastiraki square.

TRAVLOS, 28-41, 281-288, 342, 244-252.

**SESSION 22 (April 29, Tue)**

*"Hadrian's Library".*

Meeting point: Entrance of the site of Hadrian's Library, 3 Areos str. and Adrianou street, south off the Monastiraki square.

TRAVLOS, 28-41, 281-288, 342, 244-252.

**SESSION 23 (May 6, Tue)**

*The Olympieion area.*

Meeting point: the entrance of the site, Vassileos Konstantinou street.

TRAVLOS, 253-255, 289-298, 402-411.

WHYCHERLEY, 155-174.

**SESSION 24 (May 8, Thu)**

*Ancient Athenian Architecture reflected in the 19<sup>th</sup> c. neoclassical architecture of the Modern Greek capital*

Meeting point: before the central portico of the Zappeion.

May 21, Wednesday: Final Exams must be submitted.

**Notes**

*Midterm exams will be given as homework, so that we can make use of the total number of class meetings, that is 24.*

*The meeting points might be changed. The new ones will be announced before the end of the previous session.*

*Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on due date, unless noted otherwise on syllabus.*

*Course schedule, in terms of subjects and readings, may be subject to change to benefit student learning and in keeping up to date with current research.*

**Bibliography**

Camp, John McK. *The Archaeology of Athens*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.

Camp, John McK. *The Athenian Agora: excavations in the heart of classical Athens*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1992.

Coulton, J.J. *Greek architects at work: problems of structure and design*. London: Elek, 1977.

Dinsmoor, William Bell. *The architecture of ancient Greece: an account of its historic development*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1975.

Economakis, R. (ed.), *Acropolis monuments. The CCAM intervention*, London, 1994.

Fletcher, Banister. *A history of architecture*. London: Routledge, 1975.

Hurwit, J, *The Athenian Acropolis. History, Mythology and Archaeology from the Neolithic Era to the Present*, Cambridge-New York-Melbourne, 1999.

Lawrence, A.W. *Greek architecture*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996.

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Whycherley, R.E. *The stones of Athens*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978.