

**ARCH 328 | Art and Archaeology of Greece in 40 Objects  
From Deep Prehistory to The End of the Roman Empire**

**Fall 2025**

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**Course Description**

*Greece in 40 Artifacts: Unveiling the Ancient World* is an immersive exploration of the art and archaeology of Greece through the 40 carefully selected objects. This course will take students on a journey spanning from the Palaeolithic period to the Roman Empire, using these objects as our guides. These artifacts, ranging from humble stone tools cooking pots to royal golden chests and intricately painted vases, will be the foundation for our discussions and analyses. By closely examining these objects and their historical, socio-cultural, and archaeological contexts, we will gain insights into the daily lives, beliefs, and practices of the ancient societies of Greece.

Along the way, we will discuss themes such as gender roles, political structures, social hierarchies, food consumption patterns, warfare, medical practice, and even astronomical knowledge. Through lectures, class discussions, and hands-on activities, students will develop a comprehensive, diachronic understanding of the archaeology of Greece and its methods.

**Learning Goals**

Through a combination of lectures, class discussions, and hands-on activities, students will:

- learn to interpret the significance of these *things* in relation to various aspects of ancient life, including gender roles, political structures, social hierarchies, food consumption patterns, warfare, medical practice, and even astronomical knowledge;
- develop a comprehensive, diachronic understanding of the archaeology of Greece and its methods;
- acquire a broad knowledge of the key time periods, events, artistic traditions, and social phenomena that shaped the ancient societies of Greece and the Aegean

**Course Requirements and Assessment**

15% - Class Contribution

The class contribution grade is based on demonstrated reading knowledge, active participation in discussions, and attendance.

15% - Creative Work

Ten times throughout the semester the student will create a short reflection piece, a poem, a painting, or a meme on one of the most recent four objects covered in class. Before they do that, they will need to go to the museum where this object is on display and analyze the object firsthand.

30% - Quizzes

Four take-home quizzes will assess student's knowledge of the course material over the course of the semester.

20% - Object Presentation

Students will choose and present an object, together with its social, political, historical, and archaeological context. The instructor will provide a list of potential objects and themes.

20% - Academic Poster

**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. Illness or other such compelling reasons which result in absences should be reported immediately to the Student Affairs Office, via the form available in the Student Portal.

**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.

### Accessibility

This course requires students to give a verbal presentation in front of the class as part of their assessment.

### Policy 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 on 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, Tablets, and Phones

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 they are not used for class-related work.

#	Topic	Readings & Other Sources
1	<b>Introduction to Course</b> Syllabus Chronological Overview	
2	<b>1. The Neanderthal Skull from Apidima, Mani (not on display)</b> Hominin Evolution Neanderthals and H. Sapiens Palaeolithic Archaeology <b>2. An Obsidian Stone Tool from Franchthi, Nafplio Museum</b> Prehistoric seafarers Franchthi Cave Belief in Afterlife	<a href="#">Apidima Cave press release</a> Bintliff 2012, p. 28-29, 35-36  <a href="#">Rutter, Lesson 1</a> (read the <i>Mesolithic</i> section)
3	<b>3. Charred Cereals – NAM</b> Arrival of the Farmers Archaeobotany Neolithic Archaeology <b>4. Dimini Vase – NAM</b> <i>Weird Flex, but OK</i> : prestige objects in archaeological record Social Hierarchy Handmade Pottery Techniques	Hofmanová et al. 2016 (read the following sections: <i>abstract, significance, concluding remarks</i> )  Runnels and Murray 2001, p. 41-64  Video: <a href="#">Wengrow 2022</a>
4	<b>5. A Cycladic Figurine – Museum of Cycladic Art</b> Early Cycladic Period Looting and Auction Houses Archaeological Ethics <b>6. Early Helladic II Sealing from Lerna – Nafplio Museum</b> Early Helladic Period Central Administration: How and Why? Lerna	<a href="#">Rutter, Lesson 4</a> (read <i>Comments on Early Cycladic Figurines</i> )  Stansbury-O'Donnell 2015, p. 19-31
5	<b>7. The Bull-head Rhyton – Heraklion Museum</b> Minoans & Knossos Role of Bulls in Minoan Culture Minoan religion <b>8. The Minoan Weights, Akrotiri Gallery – NAM</b> Thalassocracy Thera Eruption Akrotiri	Stansbury-O'Donnell 2015, p. 32-39  Stansbury-O'Donnell, 2015, p. 39-43, 46  <a href="#">Rutter, Lesson 18</a> (Read sections 3, 6, and 7)
6	<b>9. The Golden Death Costume of a Baby Girl – NAM</b> <i>Ascribed status vs acquired status</i> Early Mycenaean culture Grave Circles <b>10. Palatial Fresco Fragment from Mycenae – NAM</b>	Bintliff 2012, p. 141, 164-180  Novembre 2015  Stansbury-O'Donnell 2015, p. 43-45

	Late Mycenaean palaces Mycenaean state structure	
7	<p><b>11. Copper Oxhide Ingot – NAM</b> Bronze metallurgy Cyrus &amp; Copper</p> <p><b>12. Canaanite Amphora – NAM</b> Bronze Age Trade Bronze Age in the Eastern Mediterranean</p>	<p>Pieniasek et al. 2018 (read the conclusion)</p> <p>Stansbury-O'Donnell 2015, p. 48-67</p>
8	<p><b>13. Tablet Tn 316 – NAM</b> Linear B writing system and dialect Desperate measures – desperate times Bronze Age Collapse</p> <p><b>14. The Warrior Vase – NAM</b> Post-palatial Mycenaean culture</p>	<p><b>Video:</b> <a href="#">Cline 2015</a></p> <p>Deger-Jalkotzy 2008</p> <p><a href="#">Rutter, Lesson 28</a></p>
9	<p><b>15. The Centaur of Lefkandi – Eretria Museum</b> Early Iron Age Archaeology Heron &amp; Lefkandi</p> <p><b>16. Dipylon Vase – NAM</b> Geometric Vase Painting Figural Decoration and Narrative in Art Kerameikos Cemetery</p>	<p>Neer 2012, p. 66-91</p> <p>Pedley 2013, p. 138-145 Spivey 2013, p. 7-13, 111-113 Mee 2011, p. 22-28</p>
10	<p><b>17. Inscription EM 5365 – Epigraphic Museum</b> Alphabetic Writing Systems The 8<sup>th</sup> c. BC &amp; Late Geometric Socio-politics</p> <p><b>18. Nikandre Kore – NAM</b> Daedalic Style Kore statues Gender in Archaic Greece</p>	<p>Pedley 2013, p. 138-145</p> <p>Spivey 2013, p. 7-13, 111-113</p>
11	<p><b>19. Aristodikos Kouros – NAM</b> Kouros Statues The Egyptian Connection The Star as A Chronological Marker</p> <p><b>20. The Helmet of Miltiades – Olympia Museum</b> The Battle of Marathon John Stuart Mill The Concept of "Western Civilization"</p>	<p>Barringer 2014, p. 159-174</p>
12	<p><b>21. Zeus and Ganymede Sculptural Group – Olympia</b> Pederasty in Ancient Greece Homosexuality</p> <p><b>22. Kritios Boy – Acropolis Museum</b> Second Persian War Dating Controversy Contrapposto</p>	<p>Neer 2012, p. 92-109 Spivey 2013, p. 127-133</p>
13	<p><b>23. A Classical Athenian Coin – Agora Museum</b> Kingdom of Lydia Numismatics Economy in the Classical Period</p> <p><b>24. A Classical Red-Figure Kylix with a Symposiac Scene – NAM</b> The Origins of Symposium and The Old Testament Drinking Games Patriarchy in Ancient Greece</p>	<p>Hornblower 1986</p>
14	<p><b>25. Horos Stone – Agora Museum</b> The Notion of Public Space Socrates &amp; Simon the Cobbler Agora in Ancient Greece</p> <p><b>26. Tripod Cooking Pot – Agora Museum</b> Cooking Methods and Foodstuffs Ancient Culinary Traditions Food Consumption as A Social Event</p>	<p>Camp 2016</p>

15	<p><b>27. An Ostrakon – Agora Museum</b>            Athenian Democracy            Athenian Political Aggression            Ostracism</p> <p><b>28. A Surgical Tool from The Sanctuary of Asklepios – Epidauros Museum</b>            Ancient Medicine from Hippokrates to Galen            The Four Humor system</p>	Freeman 2014, p. 249-269
16	<p><b>29. Spartan Shield – Agora Museum</b>            Spartan Militarism and The Enslavement of Helots            Spartan Fanboys from Romans to Nazis            Peloponnesian War</p> <p><b>30. Human Tooth from the Kerameikos Mass Burial – (not on display)</b>            Plagues in Antiquity            Thucydides &amp; the Athenian Plague</p>	TBD
17	<p><b>31. Theater Mask – Acropolis South Slope</b>            Theatrical Tradition from Thespis to Timothée Chalamet</p> <p><b>32. Grave Stele of Hegeso – NAM</b>            Gender in the Classical Period  <i>Your Attendant is A Slave: Whitewashing Ancient Slavery</i></p>	<p>Garland 2009, p. 270-282</p> <p>Hurwit 1999, p. 217-221</p>
18	<p><b>33. Aphrodite of Syracuse – NAM</b>            Praxiteles and Female Nudity in Art            Roman Copies of Greek Art</p> <p><b>34. Golden Chest from Tomb II – Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai</b>            The Arrival of Macedon            Philip II, Alexander, and the Beautiful Dream of World Domination</p>	Barringer 2014, Chapter 5
19	<p><b>35. Wounded Gaul – NAM</b>            Hellenistic Period Archaeology and History  <i>All the Emotions: Pergamene School</i></p> <p><b>36. A Bone from the Agora Bone Well – Agora Museum (not on display)</b>            Zooarchaeology            Agora Bone Well and Dead Infants</p>	Spivey 2013, p. 235-246
20	<p><b>37. The Aemilius Paullus Monument – Delphi Museum</b>            Roman Republic            Romans Militarism and Expansion            Romans in Greece</p> <p><b>38. A Roman Coin – Numismatic Museum</b>            Roman Economy and Finance            Sack of Corinth, Siege of Athens and The End of Greek Resistance</p>	Freeman 2014, pp. 394-395, 507, 533-543
21	<p><b>39. Antinoos – Delphi Museum</b>            Roman Empire            Hadrian            Death on The Nile</p> <p><b>40. Face of Saint from Rotunda – Thessaloniki</b>            Christianity Persecuted            Christianity Vindicated            The Eastern Roman Empire</p>	Bintliff 2012, p. 310-313
22	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
23	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
24	<b>Student Presentations</b>	

No Final Exam

**Primary Bibliography**

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