

INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY



CL 200 – Fall 2009
MWF 10-10:50 AM in Filmore 328

Instructor: Joey Williams

Office: Porter 347 (Ellicott complex, 3rd floor)

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 1 – 2 PM or by appointment

Website: course materials and grades will be posted on UBLearn

Email: JLW53@buffalo.edu (expect a response within 48 hours unless circumstances do not permit)

Phone: 645-2154 ext. 120

Required texts:

Greene, K. 1990. *The Archaeology of the Roman Economy*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Used copies available online for around \$6.) Abbreviated “G”.

Niels, J. 2008. *The British Museum Concise Introduction to Ancient Greece*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (Used copies available online for around \$20.) Abbreviated “N”.

Renfrew, C. and P. Bahn. 2008. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practices*. 5th edition. London: Thames and Hudson. (Used copies available online for around \$30.) Abbreviated “R&B”.

Course overview:

The primary goal of this course is to acquaint students with the history, methods, major sites, and current topics in Mediterranean archaeology. This course is divided into two parts. We first focus on the history of the discipline, its origins, individuals important to its development, and the theory and methods of classical archaeology. Next, students in this course will encounter a variety of Greek, Etruscan, and Roman archaeological sites as case studies illustrating important concepts and themes.

Requirements and grading:

I do not believe that relative grading is effective. You will be graded on the basis of individual merit. However, there are some elements of objectivity that must be preserved. As such, your grades on all assignments will be penalized for poor spelling and grammar as well as errors of fact and logic. The grade break-down is as follows:

Attendance and Participation	10%	_____ /100 pts.
Projects (4)	20%	_____ /200 pts. (50 pts. each)
Site report	20%	_____ /200 pts.
Midterm exam	20%	_____ /200 pts.
Final exam	30%	_____ /300 pts.

Extra credit may be had by attending guest lectures at IEMA, AIA, or other events and writing a brief review.

Course policies:

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Absences will be excused only in cases of severe illness, religious or civil obligation, or extreme hardship. All excused absences must be confirmed with official documentation whenever possible. If you are unable to attend an exam or presentation for any reason, you **must** notify your instructor in advance. If you do not notify and provide appropriate official documentation explaining your absence, you will not be allowed to make up the exam or presentation. Exceptions are only made for emergencies. All unexcused absences will adversely impact your grade. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a 10% reduction to your final grade. More than 5 unexcused absences will result in your failing the course.

Students are expected to prepare for class. You must complete each reading assignment before class and prepare to engage in a discussion over the material. All students are expected to practice common courtesy and to respect others during class discussion.

Students are expected to abide by the university's code of academic integrity. University policies on cheating and plagiarism are strictly enforced. If you are caught cheating during an exam or plagiarizing an assignment, you will receive a failing grade in the course and be subject to disciplinary action from the office of the dean of students.

Assignments:

Projects - You will be required to take part in **4 out of 5** different project assignments. These will be illustrative of the concepts we discuss during class. Each one will be different, and each is due on the Friday after it is assigned.

Site report - Every student is required to prepare and present a **10 minute report** on an archaeological site from the ancient Mediterranean. A list of suggested sites will be assigned (before Library Day), but you are encouraged to investigate other options – there are many sites that you could talk about. You must prepare an overview of the site's history and a PowerPoint presentation featuring important aspects of the site. You must also prepare a handout with an outline and a bibliography to distribute during your presentation.

First exam - This test will cover the first five weeks of class (weeks 1 – 5). You will be required to answer both short answers and longer essay questions. You will have a significant choice in what questions you may answer. More information will be provided as the date of the test approaches.

Second exam – This test will focus on material from the last ten weeks of class (weeks 6 – 15). You will be required to answer both short answers and longer essay questions as well as identify certain artifacts and sites that we have covered in the course. You will have significant choice in what questions you may answer. More information will be provided as the date of the test approaches.

Schedule of classes:

Week 1 (8/31 – 9/4) INTRODUCTION TO MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY

M – Introduction to the class

W – What is classical archaeology? (R&B 12-18, N 8-21, handout: Millet 2007, 30-50)

F – Site formation processes and stratigraphy (R&B 53-74)

Week 2 (9/7 – 9/11) COLLECTING THE EVIDENCE

M – **NO CLASS – LABOR DAY**

W – Survey and excavation (R&B 75-120)

F – Methods of archaeological dating (R 121-174, **project: *Building a Typology***)

Week 3 (9/14 – 9/18) CONTINUITY, TRANSITION, AND COLLAPSE

M – The archaeology of collapse and catastrophe (handout: Tainter 1990, 1-21)

W – Set up for a fall: the excavations at Knossos, Mycenae, and Troy (N 22-39)

F – The end of the world?: continuity and change in the Greek Dark Age (N 40-55)

Week 4 (9/21 – 9/25) THEORY AND ETHICS IN MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY

M – **LIBRARY DAY:** meet at Lockwood Memorial Library for orientation by classics subject librarian

W – The New Archaeology and post-processual archaeologies (R&B 469-504, handout: Dyson 1993)

F – Ethical archaeology (handout: AIA code of professional ethics, **project: *An Ethical Dilemma***)

Week 5 (9/28 – 10/2) MUSEUMS AND MANAGEMENT: THE PRESENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

M – **NO CLASS – YOM KIPPUR**

W – Archaeology and national identity (R&B 547-578)

F – **GUEST SPEAKER:** Who owns the past? Looting, repatriation, and the crisis of museums (TBA)

Week 6 (10/5 – 10/9) THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF RELIGION AND RITUAL

M – **FIRST EXAM**

W – Archaeology of ritual and meaning (R&B 393-428)

F – A walking tour of the Athenian Acropolis (N 92-113)

Week 7 (10/12 – 10/16) THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF DEATH AND BURIAL

M – Mortuary traditions and physical anthropology (R&B 429-468)

W – The infant cemetery of Lugnano (handout: Soren 1995)

F – Funerary epigraphy (handout: Bodel 2001, 1-41, **project: *Images, Texts, and Meanings***)

Week 8 (10/19 – 10/23) IMAGE, ICONOGRAPHY, AND PROPAGANDA

M – The red and the black: Greek painted pottery (N 114-133)

W – Augustus and the power of imperial imagery (handout: Stambaugh 1988, 48-66)

F – **FIELD TRIP:** meet in Center for the Arts! (N 172-177)

Week 9 (10/26 – 10/30) THE ORGANIZATION OF SOCIETIES

M – The archaeology of states, politics, and individuals (R&B 177-230)

W – Politics and commerce in the Athenian Agora (N 56-75)

F – Civic structures of the *Forum Romanum* (handout: Stambaugh 1988, 101-141)

Week 10 (11/2 – 11/6) SITE REPORTS

M – **PRESENTATIONS**

W – **PRESENTATIONS**

F – **PRESENTATIONS**

Week 11 (11/9 – 11/13) ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ROMAN ECONOMY

M – Studying the ancient economy (G 9-16, R&B 357-392)

W – Transport and trade: shipwrecks at Skerki Bank (G 17-66)

F – Agriculture and gardening: Roman villas and Pompeian gardens (G 67-97, **project: *The Corrupting Sea***)

Week 12 (11/16 – 11/20) ANCIENT INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY: CERAMIC, STONE, AND METAL

M – Production and technology in the ancient world (R&B 317-356)

W – Mining and metallurgy in Roman Iberia (G 142-149, *handout: Orejas & Sánchez-Palencia 2002*)

F – The stone quarries of *Mons Claudianus* (G 149-156, *handout: Bülow-Jacobsen 1996*)

Week 13 (11/23 – 11/27) INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY CONT'D

M – Ceramic production and the archaeological record (G 156-168)

W – **NO CLASS – FALL RECESS**

F – **NO CLASS – FALL RECESS**

Week 14 (11/30 – 12/4) THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF EMPIRE

M – Colonization and settlement (N 134-153, G 98-141)

W – An imperial possession: the military occupation of Britain (*handout: Mattingly 2006, 3-21*)

F – Gladiators, circuses, and the spectacle of power (*handout: Futrell 1997, project: *Reactions to Empire**)

Week 15 (12/7 – 12/11) ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

M – Reconstructing the paleoenvironment (R&B 231-274)

W – Industrial pollution in the ancient Mediterranean (*handout: Williams 2009*)

F – Summing up: where now for Mediterranean archaeology? (*handout: Alcock 2007, 425-428*)

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK OF 12/14 – 12/21

By remaining enrolled in this class you are accepting the terms and requirements of this syllabus. The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus as circumstances require.