

# CLASSICAL ART & ARCHAEOLOGY: BRONZE AGE TO CLASSICAL GREECE



University of Oklahoma — CL C 3213 / A HI 3213

Spring 2022

MW 4:30 – 5:45 PM

Dale Hall 0107

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Office Hours: Monday, 12:30-2:30 PM, or by appointment

**Catalogue Description:** Survey of the architecture, sculpture, painting, and minor arts in the Greek regions of the Eastern Mediterranean in the successive stages of their development; with analyses of dominant styles and detailed study of select masterpieces and monuments.

**Prerequisite:** none required.

**Learning Outcomes:**

**Survey:** Students will be able to trace the development of material and visual culture in the ancient world from prehistory through the end of the Classical period, identifying similarities, differences, and interrelations between periods and regions.

**Social Theory:** Students will analyze how visual and material culture both informed and were informed by different aspects of society in antiquity, interpreting material within its socio-historical context.

**Stylistic Analysis:** Using the appropriate terminology in writing and speaking, students will identify formal properties of art and architecture and their relation to characteristics of a particular period style (e.g. Minoan, Mycenaean, Geometric, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, etc.).

**Technical Analysis:** Using the appropriate terminology in writing and speaking, students will identify the materials and techniques used to produce art, architecture, and artifacts.

**Critical Analysis:** Students will discuss important critical approaches in art history and archaeology used to interpret ancient material and visual culture.

Most importantly, this course will improve your reading and communication skills, encourage you to examine material culture, sharpen your mind, and make you a more informed (and interesting!) member of our world.

**About the Course:** The cultural history of the ancient world is paved into the stones of its streets, built into the bricks and tiles of its buildings, painted into its frescoes, carved into its marble sculptures, and preserved in the more quotidian objects, such as tableware and storage amphora, which were produced, used, and discarded by its people. While literary and historical sources often provide a top-down view of Greek history from the perspective of the ruling, an investigation of art, architecture, and artifacts can offer a more holistic understanding of life in the ancient Mediterranean (and beyond).

This course begins in prehistoric Greece and surveys the vast diversity of art and archaeology found in the eastern Mediterranean. We begin with the invention of pottery at Greece's Franchti Cave and end with the Hellenistic style that became popular under Alexander the Great. We will investigate how material objects and visual imagery shaped society and culture (religion, politics, economy, gender and sexuality, ethnicity, etc.). We will focus on the city of Athens and other sites in mainland Greece, but we will also visit Greek colonies along the Black Sea, the coast of France and Spain, and even as far distant as India. In addition to introducing you to the iconic architectural monuments and famous works of Greek art, we will also examine the objects and images of daily life and marginalized groups within Greek society, emphasizing the diversity that characterized the period.

Assignments in the course encourage practical skills acquisition: you will practice stylistic analysis, technical analysis, and sociohistorical analysis. You will learn to synthesize multiple categories of evidence (art, architecture, text, artifacts) to interpret human behavior in past landscapes. And you will engage with various critical approaches to the interpretation of ancient art and archaeology, such as reception, *kopienkritik*, visual-spatial analysis, and gender studies.



**Required Text:** Barringer, J. M. 2015. *The Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780521171806

New editions of this book cost around \$60 online, with used copies going for somewhat less. The ebook version can be had for \$38, but I can't vouch for its quality. Amazon is willing to rent you a copy for less than \$30, as are other sites. The bookstore may charge you as much as \$100. I recommend looking for a different option if you can avoid the bookstore.

Additional readings will be made available through PDF copies uploaded to Canvas.

**Assignments & Grading:** There are two exams, one multi-part research and writing assignment, and two practical skills assessments. These are described in more detail below. Final grades are calculated from these percentages:

**Critical/Creative Assignment:** 20%

**Midterm Exam:** 25%

**Final Exam:** 25%

**Site Report Paper:** 20%

**Site Report Brochure:** 10%

**Grading Scale:** 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; below 60% = F

**Critical/Creative Assessments:** I find that learning is more rewarding when it combines creativity with critical thinking. With this in mind you will be asked to complete 2 assignments (20% of final grade total) over the course of the semester in which you will have to apply the techniques and approaches used by art historians and archaeologists in a more illustrative way. These assignments may ask you to write a short story from the perspective of an ancient person, design your own monument or statue, or reflect on the place of ancient art in modern society. More detailed guidelines to follow.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm exam halfway through the semester and a final exam during our scheduled final exam period. Exam material will be drawn from the assigned readings, lectures, and discussions. They are meant to assess your knowledge of the material presented in readings and lectures and your ability to analyze this material. You will be asked to answer questions of varying length and complexity, and you will be expected to identify cultural artifacts. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

**Research Paper:** This final component to the course is a multi-part research and writing assignment over an archaeological site or monument not discussed extensively during a lecture. A list of potential topics will be distributed via Canvas, but you are encouraged to seek out a site that interests you. This project is broken down into two parts: an 8-10 page paper (20% of final grade), and a brochure that advertises and explains a site that was important to your research (10% of final grade). You will submit the bibliography and paper to your instructor and post your brochure on a discussion forum on our Canvas site for your peers to view. Some questions on the final exam will be drawn from these brochures.

**Attendance & Late Work:** Students have a responsibility to inform the professor prior to absences whenever possible. Three (3) unexcused absences from class will result in the automatic loss of half a letter grade (e.g., A- to B+). Assignments or exams will only be accepted after their due date in the case of a serious obligation or emergency. Documentation (doctor's note, court summons, etc.) must be provided before late work is accepted. Except in an emergency, anticipated absences should be discussed with the instructor before the assignment or exam is due. Late assignments must be submitted by the next class period. Missed exams must be rescheduled with the instructor within 48 hours of the original date. A make-up exam will be scheduled within a week of the original exam's date.

**Content Notice:** Images of human skeletal remains may appear in some materials from this course, including assigned readings and lecture slides.

**Please Remember:** These are strange days. Things some (though certainly not all) of us used to take for granted—our economic safety, our health, our ability to access reliable technology—are not guaranteed. You are not alone in this. If you're in some sort of jam, let me know. Perhaps you are having difficulty accessing the internet. Perhaps you have gotten sick. Perhaps you have family obligations that require your attention. All of these are important; never think that they cannot be accommodated. Schoolwork matters; life matters more.



## **University Policies:**

### **COVID-19**

Please stay apprised of OU guidelines with regard to COVID-19 protocols on campus. This website has the pertinent information and is regularly updated: <https://www.ou.edu/together>. OU is strongly encouraging vaccination and masking in high-density settings such as classrooms and group events. COVID-19 vaccines are available to all students, faculty, and staff on all three OU campuses at no cost to the individual.

### **Academic Integrity**

Cheating is strictly prohibited at the University of Oklahoma, because it devalues the degree you are working hard to get. As a member of the OU community it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the rules. For specific definitions on what constitutes cheating, review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at [http://integrity.ou.edu/students\\_guide.html](http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html). To be successful in this class, all work on exams and quizzes must be yours and yours alone. You may not receive outside help. On examinations and quizzes you will never be permitted to use your notes, textbooks, calculators, or any other study aids. Should you see someone else engaging in this behavior, I encourage you to report it to myself or directly to the Office of Academic Integrity Programs. That student is devaluing not only their degree, but yours, too. Be aware that it is my professional obligation to report academic misconduct, which I will not hesitate to do. Sanctions for academic misconduct can include expulsion from the University and an F in this course, so don't cheat. It's simply not worth it.

### **Religious Observance**

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

### **Reasonable Accommodation Policy**

Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website <http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html>. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

### **Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement**

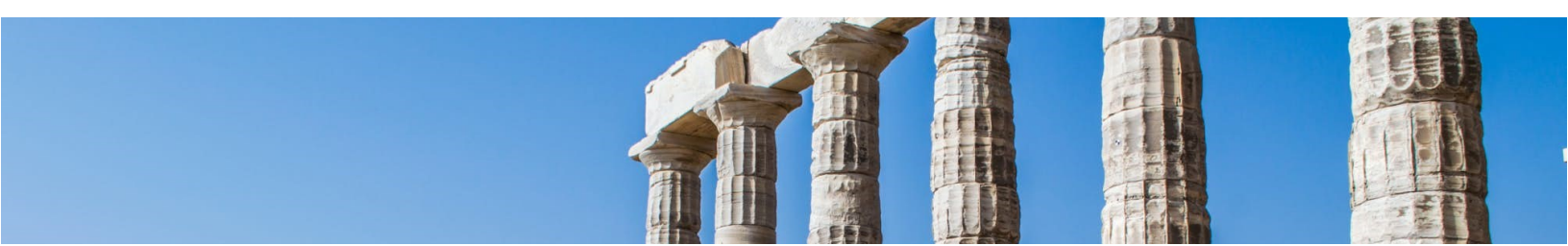
For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office 405-325-2215 (8-5, M-F) or OU Advocates 405-615-0013 (24/7) to learn more or to report an incident.

### **Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues**

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or child-birth-related issues, please contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see [www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html) for commonly asked questions.

### **Final Exam Preparation Period**

Pre-finals week will be defined as the seven calendar days before the first day of finals. Faculty may cover new course material throughout this week. For specific provisions of the policy please refer to OU's Final Exam Preparation Period policy (<https://apps.hr.ou.edu/FacultyHandbook#4.10>).



Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
1	Jan. 19	<b>Course Overview &amp; Introduction to Aegean Prehistory</b>	Pullen, 19-46 (on Canvas)
2	Jan. 24 & 26	<b>Bronze Age Greece: Minoans</b>	Barringer, 10-39
3	Jan. 31 & Feb. 2	<b>Bronze Age Greece: Mycenaeans</b>	Barringer, 39-60 Pulak, 862-876 (on Canvas)
4	Feb. 7 & 9	<b>Apocalypse 1177 BCE: the Cataclysmic End of the Bronze Age</b>	Barringer, 60-65 Dickinson, 483-490 (on Canvas)
5	Feb. 14 & 16	<b>The Early Iron Age in the Eastern Mediterranean</b>	Barringer, 66-123 <b>Critical/Creative Assignment 1</b>
6	Feb. 21 & 23	<b>The Archaic Period I: Temples and Votives</b>	Barringer, 124-149
7	Feb. 28 & March 2	<b>The Archaic Period II: Sculpture and Pottery</b>	Barringer, 149-173
8	March 7 & 9	<b>The Archaic Period III: Athens and the Persian Wars</b>	Barringer, 174-193 <b>Midterm Exam</b>
9	March 14 & 16	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Enjoy your break!</b>
10	March 21 & 23	<b>The Classical Period I: Defining the Classical Style</b>	Barringer, 194-220 <b>Critical/Creative Assignment 2</b>
11	March 28 & 30	<b>The Classical Period II: Monumentalizing Athens</b>	Barringer, 220-248
12	April 4 & 6	<b>The Classical Period III: Athens and Sparta</b>	Barringer, 248-263 <b>Site Report Brochure Due</b>
13	April 11 & 13	<b>Civic Consciousness and Urban Landscapes</b>	Barringer, 264-281
14	April 18 & 20	<b>Greek Houses and Households</b>	Tsakirgis, 67-82 (on Canvas) Ault, 141-159 (on Canvas)
15	April 25 & 27	<b>Temples and the Gods</b>	Barringer, 282-301 <b>Site Report Paper Due</b>
16	May 2 & 4	<b>Alexander the Great and the End of Classical Greece</b>	Barringer, 301-319

**Final Exam: Mon., May 9th at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**