INTRODUCTION TO MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY
CLST 205/ARTH 205 • Spring 2008
Lecture: 1:30–3:00 Tuesday, Thursday • Logan Hall 402
Optional Recitations to be Announced

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

NB: This course fulfills the Cross-Cultural Analysis requirement for ’10 and later; and the History and Tradition Sector requirement, all classes

Instructor: Thomas Tartaron
Department of Classical Studies
270 Logan Hall
573-5887
tartaron@sas.upenn.edu
Office hours: Tuesday 3:00–4:00 or by appointment

Teaching Assistant
Miriam Clinton: miriacli@sas.upenn.edu
Office hours TBA; Classical Studies lounge, second floor, Logan Hall

Overview
Many of the world’s great ancient civilizations flourished on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea: the Egyptians, the Minoans and Mycenaeans, the Greeks and Romans, just to name a few. In this course, we will focus on the ways that archaeologists recover and interpret the material traces of the past, working alongside natural scientists, historians and art historians, epigraphers and philologists, and many others. Archaeological sites and themes from over 2000 years of Mediterranean history will be presented.

The course will involve lecture, discussion, and examination of exhibits and artifacts. Several invited lecturers will discuss their archaeological research, thus giving you an opportunity to hear from experts in each geographical area and chronological era. This course is a non-technical introduction that assumes no prior knowledge of archaeology.

Requirements for the class are as follows:

1. Three museum exercises 15%  Deadlines 14 February, 25 March, 8 April
2. Midterm examination 25%  26 February
3. Term paper (8–10 pages) 30%  Tentative due date 18 April
4. Final 30%  Monday, 12 May, 12:00–2:00 PM

Some meetings will take place at the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The museum exercises can be completed during those meetings or in visits on your own. The midterm will be completed in class (closed book). There is one term paper and one final examination. Help on bibliographical work and research techniques can be found at:
There will be optional recitations during the course of the semester, to provide interested students an opportunity to discuss with the instructors (and perhaps other guest scholars) topics of interest in greater depth. Details will be provided.

**Textbook (required and available at the Penn Bookstore)**

Other readings marked below by an asterisk (*) may be found on the course’s Blackboard site in PDF form.

**LECTURE SCHEDULE**

17 January: **Introduction: Mediterranean Landscapes and Peoples of the Past**
*Reading*: None

22 January: **The Concept of the Mediterranean**
- The importance of climate, topography, and the sea in Mediterranean history
- Long-term subsistence and human interaction with the natural environment

*Reading*
* Hesiod (late 8th century B.C. Greek poet), *Works and Days*, lines 380–692.

24 January: **Archaeology: A Brief Intellectual and Methodological History**

*Reading*
Gates, pp. 1–10.

29 January: **Egypt of the Pyramids**
- Emergence of civilization along the Nile
- From Predynastic Egypt to the earlier Eleventh Dynasty
- Evolution of the pyramid as a mortuary form

*Reading*
Gates, Chapter 5, pp. 78–98.
31 January: Egyptian Cities, Temples and Tombs. Focus: Tell el-Amarna

**Guest Lecturer:**
Dr. Jennifer Houser Wegner, University of Pennsylvania  
Research Scientist, Egyptian Section  
University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology  
Co-curator of current exhibit, *Amarna, Ancient Egypt’s Place in the Sun*

*Reading*
* First museum exercise, Ancient Egypt: available on Blackboard. **DUE DATE 14 February.**

5 February: The Minoans of Crete: The First European Civilization. Focus: Knossos and Thera

**Guest Lecturer:**
Miriam Clinton, Teaching Assistant  
Graduate Student, Art & Archaeology of the Mediterranean World

*Reading*
Gates, Chapter 7, pp. 120–131.  

7 February: The Palaces of the Mycenaeans: Mycenae and Pylos

- Economy and politics in a Mycenaean palace state  
- Linear B: the first writing in Greek

*Reading*
Gates, Chapter 7, pp. 131–139.  

12 February: A “Small World” in Mycenaean Greece. Focus: The Saronic Gulf

- Prof. Tartaron’s field project!  
- Connectivity and “peer polity interaction”  
- Mycenae expands its sphere of influence
Reading

14 February: Troy and the Trojan War
- Homer’s Trojan War: historical fact or mythic fiction?
- What does archaeological evidence tell us about Greeks and Trojans?

Guest Lecturer:
Professor C. Brian Rose, University of Pennsylvania
James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology
Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section at the University Museum
Head of Post-Bronze Age excavations at Troy

Reading
Gates, Chapter 8, pp. 140–153

19 February: Troy in the Penn Museum
– *Meet at the University Museum*

Guest Lecturer:
Professor C. Brian Rose, University of Pennsylvania
James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology
Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section at the University Museum
Head of Post-Bronze Age excavations at Troy

21 February: Underwater Archaeology in the Mediterranean

Guest Lecturer:
Justin Leidwanger
Graduate Student and Doctoral Candidate, Art & Archaeology of the Mediterranean World
University of Pennsylvania

Reading:
* Reading TBA

26 February: Midterm Examination
28 February: Archaeology of the Greek Polis (City-State)

- City and countryside in the historical Mediterranean
- Athens and Sparta: two different paths to the polis

Reading

4 March: Greek Sanctuaries: Delphi and Olympia

Reading
Gates, Chapter 14, pp. 227–240.

6 March: Classical Athens at the University Museum: Greek Artisans

– Meet at the University Museum

Guest Lecturer:
Professor Ann Blair Brownlee, University of Pennsylvania
Senior Research Scientist of the Mediterranean Section at the University Museum
Adjunct Assistant Professor of the History of Art

Reading
* Second museum exercise, available on Blackboard and to be brought to the museum
DUE DATE 25 March.
18 March: Etruscans

Guest Lecturer:
Dr. Jean Turfa, University of Pennsylvania
Research Associate, Mediterranean Section at the University Museum

Reading
Gates, Chapter 18, pp. 305–316.

20 March: Etruscans in the University Museum
– Meet at the University Museum

Guest Lecturer:
Dr. Jean Turfa, University of Pennsylvania
Research Associate, Mediterranean Section at the University Museum

Reading
* Third museum exercise, available on Blackboard and to be brought to the museum

DUE DATE 8 April.

25 March: Early and Republican Rome

Reading
Gates, Chapters 19 and 20, pp. 317–342.

27 March: Imperial Rome

Reading

1 April: Rome: The Pantheon

Guest Lecturer: TBA

Reading
3 April: Provincial Cities of Roman Italy: Ostia and Pompeii

Reading
Gates, Chapter 21, pp. 343–357

8 April: Provincial Cities of Roman Italy: Pompeii (Continued)

Reading

10 April: Romans and Natives in Imperial Spain

**Guest Lecturer:**
Dr. Scott de Brestian, University of Pennsylvania
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Classical Studies

Reading
*Reading TBA

15 April: Byzantine Monuments: Archaeological Survey in Cappadocia

**Guest Lecturer:**
Professor Robert Ousterhout, University of Pennsylvania
Professor of History of Art

Reading
*Reading TBA

17 April: Late Antique Transformations: A Late Antique “Explosion”? 

**Guest Lecturer:**
Professor Campbell Grey, University of Pennsylvania
Assistant Professor of Classical Studies

Reading

**22 April: The Islamic Mediterranean**

**Guest Lecturer:**
Professor Renata Holod, University of Pennsylvania
Professor of History of Art

*Reading*
*Reading TBA*

**24 April: Modern Archaeological Projects in the Mediterranean: Case Studies**

*Reading*
*Reading TBA*

**29 April: Concluding Comments**

*Reading:
*Reading TBA*

**12 May (Monday): Final Examination, 12:00–2:00 PM**
Location TBA