Session 1 (Sept. 14th) - Aegean Bronze Age: Minoan and Mycenaean Cultures

1. Principles of relative chronology; basis of the cultural sequence in the Bronze Age Aegean.

Absolute chronology in prehistory: the Egyptian synchronisms and scientific analyses

Case Study: the late 13th C. BCE Kaş shipwreck.

2. Social reconstruction in prehistory: artefactual analysis and material culture in context.


Session 2 (Sept. 21st) – Geometric To Classical Greece: Painting & Sculpture In Context

Pottery and sculpture as evidence of social history.

Case Studies: i) Late Geometric élite burials in the Kerameikos cemetery in Athens; ii) Orientalizing 7th C.: a Protoattic burial amphora at Eleusis; iii) Archaic Greece: Attic Black Figure vase painting and sculpture; iv) Attic Red Figure vase painting during the Persian Wars; v) Early Classical sculpture: Temple of Zeus at Olympia; free-standing sculpture.

Session 3 (Sept. 28th) – Symbolic Meaning in the Classical World

Nationalism and Empire in 5th C. Athens

Athenian nationalism, myth as allegory, democracy vs tyranny, sophrosyne and hubris

Case Studies: i) Early Classical Agora: Tyrannicides sculpture group and large-scale panel painting in the Stoa Poikile and Theseion; ii) High Classical: the Hephaisteion in the Agora; the Parthenon as a monument of victory and empire; iii) fall of Empire in the late 5th C.: Temple of Athena Nike; red figure and white ground vase painting.
Session 4 (Oct. 5th) – Late Republican Rome

Hellenization of Roman material culture in the 2nd and 1st Centuries BCE.

Case Studies: i) public architecture: Greek models and Roman innovation; ii) the Roman domus; iii) First and Second styles of wall painting in Rome and the Bay of Naples: Greek origins and content; iv) public and private portraiture.

Session 5 (Oct. 12th) – Birth of Imperial Rome (31 BCE – 14 CE)

Augustan Rome and imperial ideology.


Session 6 (Oct. 19th) – Early Empire (1st – 2nd Cs. CE)

Augustan legacy and imperial propaganda.


Final Exam (3 hours): Oct. 26th

Same format as case studies with image identifications (object, location, date, etc.) and social/historical/cultural contextualization.

GRADE ASSESSMENT: the entire grade assessment for the archaeology portion of the Core Course is based on the final exam, which is worth 25% of final grade for Classics 9000.

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