

**CS 9532A: TOPOGRAPHY OF ATHENS AND ATTICA
GRADUATE SEMINAR: FALL 2019**

Course Info:

Meetings: Monday, 2:30-5:30pm, STVH 2166

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Pratt
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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30 (and by appointment)

Course Description:

This course is a comprehensive overview of the topography, monuments, and material culture of ancient Athens from the Bronze Age to the early modern era with a focus on the time of her greatest power and influence during the 6th and 5thCs. BCE. The archaeological evidence will be examined within the social, political, and historical contexts of the city in both the private/domestic and public (secular/sacred) spheres. This course will also take into consideration the greater Attic territory and the fluctuating relationships between city and countryside over time.

The course will begin with an overview of the topography of the city and countryside in different periods: the palatial Bronze Age, the development of the polis in the Archaic period, the effects of changing politics in the sixth and fifth centuries, the city during the Empire, and the gradual decline of the fourth and third centuries BCE. Classes will be composed of lecture and student presentations. The student presentations during the first half of the course will be based on a particular monument or site relevant to the topic of the week. The second half of the course will focus on problems of Athenian and Attic topography and will consist mainly of formal student reports that ideally will coincide with the student's research paper.

COURSE COMPONENTS AND GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Class participation: 20%

All students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material and respond to lectures and each other. This means having done the reading, thought about them and prepared with thoughtful remarks about the arguments, use of evidence, your opinion about the material, etc.

Presentation #1—Monument/Site report: 20%

We will spend the first half of the course investigating the physical layout of the city to understand the growth of Athens and the various monuments and complexes built by individuals and the state. Students will be expected to know the location of all major buildings in Athens. Each student will be responsible for presenting an in-depth report on a monument, site, or building program within the city (please consult the list of possible presentations in each week of the course, listed below). The presentation should be about 30 minutes in length and should be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. Be sure that image quality is to the standard of a conference presentation (if you have any trouble finding good images please discuss this with me well before the presentation day). You should also have a short handout (2-4 pages, always print double sided) for the class to take away with the most pertinent information included, such as a monument/site plan, dates, phases, etc. The presentation should include a description of the monument/site, its use/importance in antiquity, pertinent bibliography, and since this is a topography class, you should consider the role of the monument/building in its immediate landscape and how it might interact with neighboring structures. You should also consider how the monument/building is in dialogue with or response to other spaces in the city or political machinations. You may also include details of its modern investigation (e.g. was it excavated with modern scientific strategies or uncovered in the Medieval period and some details are lost?), and how ancient literary or artistic sources help our understanding of the monument. The literary sources are very important and constitute a large part of Athenian topography, especially for monuments that are unknown or debated now. We will discuss more about using literary sources for this presentation in class.

Presentation #2—Problems in Athenian Topography: 20%

Each student will be responsible for presenting an extensive report on a problem in Athenian topography. We will discuss the possible topics in class or you may come up with your own subject (in consultation with me), but this topic should differ substantially from your topic of presentation #1. This presentation may be on the same topic as your research paper, therefore you should see this as an aspect of your research project and an opportunity to gain feedback from me and your classmates about the direction of the research. The presentation should be about 45 minutes in length and should be accompanied by a handout with the most pertinent information for the class to take away. You should also have a PowerPoint presentation (please avoid lengthy handouts with several images). These topics will not fall concurrently with the historical timeline of the course, but will be isolated toward the second half of the term.

Annotated Bibliography: 5%

This will be in conjunction with your research paper and includes an in-depth list of the sources you are using and a few notes about the usefulness of the source. The annotated bibliography is meant to contribute towards the progress of your research paper and provide practice for finding and analyzing relevant scholarly sources.

Research paper (based on one of the presentations): 35%

The last primary component of the course will be a substantial research project due at the end of the semester (**Due date to be discussed, but probably the third week in December**). We will discuss the direction and nature of this research individually and decide your goals for the research project. Topics should be predominantly archaeological, but may encompass several

types of evidence such as literary, documentary and historical sources. Your topic should come out of one of your presentations so that you will have a head-start on research for the paper.

You will pass in a significant piece of work, between 20-25 pages, including complete bibliography, full citations (footnotes please, not endnotes) and properly illustrated with images where appropriate (please put images at the end of the document with captions). We will discuss this project further in class and I encourage you to have as many meetings with me about the topic and direction as you need to complete a quality, professional piece of research. As part of your ongoing research on this topic, you will submit an annotated bibliography (due in Week 10), which includes an in-depth list of the sources you are using and a few notes about the usefulness of the source. We will spend time in class discussing the best resources for archaeological research (print and electronic) and how to best approach your bibliography and your topic generally.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction (September 9)

Topics:

Introduction to Athenian Topography and the city of Athens; what is “topography”?

Introduction to sources for Athenian topography and archaeology

How we know what we know about Athens

Assignment of presentation #1 topics (think about this in advance. See each week below for options)

Reading (do before class):

Look through maps in Camp 2001 to familiarize yourself with the layout of the city and Attica.

Camp, J. 2001. *The Archaeology of Athens*. Yale University Press.

Copies in the Classics Library (Lawson 3202: M-F 9:00-4:00): DF275.C28

Week 2: Bronze Age, EIA, and early Archaic Athens (September 16)

Topics and Questions:

What are the earliest remains in Athens and do they correspond to “Athens”?

What sources do we have for information on early Athens? (myth

What was going on in the Early Iron Age? What types of remains are present? How do they skew our picture of the area?

When does Athena become the patron goddess of Athens?

What is synoikism?

Reading:

- Deacy, S. 2008. *Athena*. New York: Routledge; Chapter 6: Early Athenian History, pp. 92-97.
- Osborne, R. 1989. “A Crisis in Archaeological History? The Seventh Century B.C. in Attica” *BSA* 84: 297-322.

- Papadopoulos, J.K. 1996. "The Original Kerameikos of Athens and the Siting of the Classical Agora" *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies* 37(2):107-128.

Week 3: Late Archaic Athens, ca. 600-490 BCE (September 23)

Topics and Questions:

What structures, if any, are indicative of the changing political organization of Archaic Athens?

What is happening on the acropolis and does it have anything to do with the tyranny?

How is the polis connected to the hinterland at this point? How does it change during this time period?

Where is the center of the city in the sixth century and what types of buildings predominate?

How do individuals make their mark on the city towards the end of the sixth century?

Does anything change with the start of the Democracy?

Presentation options:

Archaic Temple of Athena Polias

Prytaneion/Bouleuterion in Agora

Reading:

- Deacy, S. 2008. *Athena*. New York: Routledge; Chapter 6: Early Athenian History, pp. 98-104.
- Boersma, J. 2000. Peisistratos' building activity reconsidered. In *Peisistratus and the Tyranny, a Reappraisal of the Evidence*, edited by H. Sancisi-Weerdenburg, 49-56. Amsterdam: J.C. Geiben
 - IN LIBRARY, DF224.P4P45 2000
- Ferrari, G. 2002 "The ancient temple on the Acropolis at Athens." *AJA* 106(1): 11-35.
- Papadopoulos, J.K. 1996. "The Original Kerameikos of Athens and the Siting of the Classical Agora" *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies* 37(2):107-128.

Week 4: Post-Persian War Athens, 490-450 BCE (September 30)

Topics and Questions:

What happened to Athens during the Persian War?

What was the direct aftermath of the Persian War on Athenian topography?

What types of buildings were built or rebuilt? Why?

What characteristics and motivation define the new constructions of the early Classical period?

Presentation options:

The Temple of Hephaistos

The Themistoklean Wall and Long Walls

Athenian Treasury at Delphi

Stoa Poikile

Reading:

- Garland, Robert. 2017. *Athens Burning: The Persian Invasion of Greece and the Evacuation of Attica*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Ferrari, G. 2002 "The ancient temple on the Acropolis at Athens." *AJA* 106(1): 11-35.
- For some analytical practice: see competing views and new research on the Athena Promachos Statue
 - Lundgreen, B. 1997. "A Methodological Enquiry: The Great Bronze Athena by Pheidias." *JHS* 117.
 - Foley, E. & Stroud, R.S. 2019, "A Reappraisal of the Athena Promachos Accounts from the Acropolis (IG I3 435)", *Hesperia: The Journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*, vol. 88, no. 1, pp. 87-153.

Week 5: Periklean Athens, 450-420 BCE (October 7)**Topics and Questions:**

What were the goals of the Periklean building program? Were they achieved?

What is the purpose of the Parthenon and its sculptural decoration?

How does the Periklean building program affect the way Athens was and is viewed? (i.e. did it work?)

Presentation options:

Propylaea

Theatre of Dionysus and Odeion

Reading:

- Deacy, S. 2008. *Athena*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 7: All about Athena? The Classical Akropolis, pp. 105-121.
- Kousser, R. 2009. "Destruction and Memory on the Athenian Acropolis." *The Art Bulletin* 91(3):263-282.
- Neils, J. 2001. *The Parthenon Frieze*. Cambridge University Press.
 - IN LIBRARY, NA2965.N45 2001
- For background/more info:
 - Azoulay, V., J. Lloyd, and P. Cartledge. 2010. *Pericles of Athens*. Princeton University Press. (online through library)
 - Rhodes, P.J. 2018, *Periclean Athens*, Bloomsbury Academic, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, London.

Week 6: Thanksgiving, No Class

Week 7: Late Classical Athens, ca. 420-330 BCE (October 21)

Topics and Questions:

How did the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BCE) affect the topography of Athens?

What focus was placed on building and polis management during the early fourth century?

What is going on with the Erechtheion?

Where are the burial grounds and how did they contribute to the topography of Classical Athens?

What is the *demosion sema*?

How did the rise of Macedon affect the topography of Athens?

Presentation options:

Temple of Athena Nike

Erechtheion

Reading:

- Palagia, O. 2009, *Art in Athens during the Peloponnesian War*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge; New York;.
 - IN LIBRARY, N5650.A78 2009
- Gerding, H., Gerding, H., 2006, "The Erechtheion and the Panathenaic Procession", *American Journal of Archaeology*, vol. 110, no. 3, pp. 389-401.
 - And compare to Ferrari 2002 above.
- David W. J. Gill 2001, "The Decision to Build the Temple of Athena Nike ("IG" I335)", *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte*, vol. 50, no. 3, pp. 257-278.
- HARRISON, E.B. 1997, "The Glories of the Athenians: Observations on the Program of the Frieze of the Temple of Athena Nike", *Studies in the History of Art*, vol. 49, pp. 108-2.

Week 8: Hellenistic Athens (October 28)

Topics and Questions:

What type of city was Athens in the Hellenistic period?

Where was the center of the city, or what were the most valued aspects of the city at this time?

Who was responsible for building programs and why?

What is *euergetism*?

Presentation options:

Stoa of Attalos

Odeon of Herodes Atticus

Reading: TBD

Week 9: Reading week, No Class

Week 10: From the Romans to the Modern Era (November 11)

***Annotated bibliography due**

Topics and Questions:

What mark did the Romans leave on Athenian topography? Why?

How did Romanization affect the topography of Athens? Where did Romans put things and why?

What was the perception of Athens during the Roman era?

What happened to Athens during the Byzantine period?

During the Ottoman Empire?

Compare the topography of Athens in 450 BCE to 450 CE. How does the difference shape the way we see Athens today?

Presentation options:

Temple of Ares

Odeon of Agrippa

The Parthenon in the Byzantine and Ottoman periods

Reading: TBD

Week 11: Presentation #2 (November 18)

Week 12: Presentation #2 (November 25)

Week 13: Presentation #2, Conclusions (December 2)

Topics and questions:

What does the religious landscape of Athens look like from the Archaic period through late antiquity?

What does the political landscape of Athens look like and how does it change?

What roles did political and personal goals have in shaping the topography of Athens?

Readings: none

Possible research paper/presentation #2 topics

***These are suggestions. You are free to make up your own, but please consult with me.**

- The Mycenaean Acropolis in Athens: problems and controversies
- Shifting location of burial grounds and intra- vs. extra-urban spaces
- Peisistratid building program in Athens—was there one?
- Archaic Temple or Temples of Athena on the Athenian Acropolis?
- Archaeological evidence for the Persian sack of Athens and its effect on the topography of the Classical era

- The changing space of the Agora, its uses, and its symbolism for the polis
- Public gathering places in the polis over time: Theater of Dionysus vs. the Pnyx, etc.
- The water system and fountains in ancient Athens
- Public works (drainage, open space, etc.)
- The fortification systems of Classical Athens and how they define (or do not define) the city.