

Tentative syllabus; some details may change in the final version

Classical Studies 2500B-650

Ancient Cities

Course Outline – Winter 2024



Class Meetings: Asynchronous

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide a survey of cities of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East, from the earliest urban settlements to the late Roman Empire. The course will give students an overview of the development of cities in the region over time and an understanding of the interconnectivity of these varied settlements. Students will learn how to analyse relevant evidence, such as the remains of ancient buildings and roads, the remains of implements used in everyday life, artistic representations, and ancient textual evidence. By the end of the course, students will be able to answer questions about the practicalities of city development and building, as well as what these cities reveal about their respective cultures.

Prerequisites: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, successful students will:

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- 1) Understand the progression of the history of the ancient Mediterranean in a general sense
- 2) Understand relevant archaeological methods for evaluating urban environments
- 3) Be able to identify the ancient sites focused on in the course
- 4) Be able to speak about the development of urban centres in antiquity
- 5) Be able to interpret the broader cultural implications of the material evidence from ancient urban centres
- 6) Understand the cultural influences present between cities of the ancient Mediterranean
- 7) Understand the modern history of archaeology in a general sense and the ethical considerations relevant to the modern archaeologist

REQUIRED TEXTS

This course has the following required text:

Gates, Charles. 2011. *Ancient Cities: The Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece, and Rome*, Second Edition. London: Routledge.

This is available for free as an e-book through the Western library. There are also a few hard copies available for purchase in the bookstore for anyone who prefers a physical book. If you purchase a second-hand copy, make sure it is the Second Edition of the text.

EVALUATIONS

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Quizzes | 40% | Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 (see OWL for more specific time windows) |
| Discussions | 25% | Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 (see OWL for more specific time windows) |
| Final Exam | 35% | As scheduled by the university |

For all evaluations, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of the guidelines and deadlines and to ask any questions they have prior to the due date. If accommodation is needed, it is the student's responsibility to arrange this prior to the assignment's due date.

Quizzes

There are 5 bi-weekly quizzes in this course. These will be held in weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Each will focus on the material from the previous two weeks of the course. The lowest grade will be dropped, with the remaining four quizzes each constituting 10% of the final grade. Students will have a window of a few days within which to complete each quiz, but once started they will be timed. It is up to the student to ensure they have a good internet connection and sufficient time to complete the quiz once started. Further information on the quizzes can be found on OWL.

Discussions

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There are five forum discussions in this course. These will take place on weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. The forum will be open for the entirety of the week of the discussion and will then close. Students must make sure to complete their contributions within the given window for each discussion. Each will be worth 5% of the student's final grade. Each will have a discussion prompt related to the course material for the students to discuss. The class will be automatically divided into smaller groups for these discussions. Further information on the discussion can be found on OWL.

Final Exam

The final exam will take place during the final exam period and be held online on OWL. The exam will be timed. The exam is cumulative and no aids are allowed.

MISSED WORK

Since all evaluations will be able to be completed remotely and on the student's own time within a several day window, there will be no extensions or accommodation granted for missed course work except in extreme circumstances.

Requests for this accommodation should be directed to the instructor for evaluations worth less than 10%. For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

OWL

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

OFFICE HOURS

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I am happy to meet with students who want help succeeding in the course. While I have fixed office hours for those who prefer to be able to drop-in, I am also able to make appointments for other times within the week upon request.

EMAIL

I will do my best to answer all emails within 24 hours on weekdays and by the next workday during weekends or holidays (i.e. if you email me after 5 PM on a Friday, you might not get a response until Monday). If I do not respond within this timeframe, feel free to resend your email to ensure a timely response.

Please send all emails through your Western email address to mine. I will not respond to emails sent from personal accounts, since I cannot verify your identity (and many of these are sorted to spam).

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Accessibility

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Religious Accommodations

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy (https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf), the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Academic Counselling

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Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>

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CLASS SCHEDULE

All materials will be posted on OWL, except for the Gates readings. Please watch videos in the order provided. Information on the Gates textbook can be found on the first page of this document.

Week One: January 8th-12th

Introduction to archaeology

Introduction to the ancient Mediterranean and Near East

Gates reading: Introduction

Assessments: None

Week Two: January 15th-19th

The Start of Urbanism

The Rise of the First Cities

Gates reading: Chapter 1

Assessments: Discussion Forum 1 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Sunday

Week Three: January 22nd-26th

Mesopotamian Cities

Gates reading: Chapter 3

Assessments: Quiz 1 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Friday

Week Four: January 29th-February 2nd

Minoan Cities

Cycladic Cities

Gates reading: Chapter 7, p. 118-128

Assessments: Discussion Forum 2 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Sunday

Week Five: February 5th-9th

Mycenaean Cities

Troy

Gates reading: Chapter 7, p. 128-end, Chapter 8

Assessments: Quiz 2 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Friday

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Week Six: February 12th-16th

Greek Iron Age Cities

Persepolis

Gates reading: Chapter 12, Chapter 10, p. 185-188

Assessments: Discussion Forum 3 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Sunday

February 19th-23rd: Reading week; no classes

Week Seven: February 26th-March 1st

Athens

Gates reading: Chapters 14 and 16

Assessments: Quiz 1 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Friday

Week Eight: March 4th-March 8th

Hellenistic Cities

Pergamon

Alexandria

Gates reading: Chapter 18

Assessments: Discussion Forum 4 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Sunday

Week Nine: March 11th-15th

Rome: Development and Republic

Cosa

Gates reading: Chapter 20

Assessments: Quiz 4 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Friday

Week Ten: March 18th-22nd

Rome: Capital of the Empire

Gates reading: Chapters 21 and 23

Assessments: Discussion Forum 5 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Sunday

Week Eleven: March 25th-29th

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March 29th: Good Friday; no classes

Pompeii and Herculaneum

Readings: Chapter 22, p. 356-366

Assessments: Quiz 5 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-11:59 PM Friday

Week Twelve: April 1st-5th

The Roman Provinces

Palmyra

Leptis Magna

Trier

Readings: Chapter 24

Assessments: None