

Classical Studies 2500A 650

Ancient Cities in the Mediterranean

Course Outline – Fall 2024



An online, asynchronous course with an in-person final exam

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide a survey of cities of the ancient Mediterranean and West Asia, 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:

- 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. 2024. *Ancient Cities: The Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece, and Rome*, Third Edition. London: Routledge.

The book 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. Please note: This a brand-new edition of the textbook and has changed considerably from the previous edition. Make sure that you are using the correct edition.

EVALUATIONS

Quizzes	40%	Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 (see OWL for specific time windows)
Discussions	20%	Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 (see OWL for specific time windows)
Final Exam	40%	In-Person 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 due date. The university has a new policy on late/missed work, so make sure to familiarize yourself with the new procedures.

Quizzes

There are 5 bi-weekly quizzes in this course. These will be held in weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 and be available from Monday at midnight until Friday at 5PM during those weeks. Each will focus on the material from the previous two weeks of the course (with the exception of the first quiz, which will cover the first three weeks). The lowest grade will be dropped, with each of the remaining four quizzes 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

There are five discussion forums in this course. These will take place on weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 and be available from Monday at midnight until Friday at 5PM during those weeks. Students must make sure to complete their contributions within the given window for each discussion. The lowest grade will be dropped, with each of the remaining four forums constituting 5% of the final grade. Each will have discussion prompts 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 discussions can be found on OWL.

Final Exam

The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar and be held **in person**. The exam is cumulative and no aids are allowed.

MISSED WORK

The full details of the new missed work policy are given below. To simplify it to cover what will be relevant for most students: because of the built-in flexibility with deadlines (5ish day window) and dropped lowest grade for both quizzes and discussion forums, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for these missed elements. This flexibility is not meant to give “free” dropped grades in addition to those missed for serious reasons, but rather to help streamline the process for both students and instructors when situations arise requiring a student to miss an evaluation. If you choose to skip a quiz or forum early in the term, this might hurt you later if you unexpectedly miss a second one. It is recommended that students complete assessments early in the availability window to leave additional time in case of illness or other work disruptions. If you know in advance you will be missing a whole week of the course, you must reach out prior to that week to discuss submitting the work early. If a student has an ongoing or lengthy disruption to their work that makes this flexibility insufficient, they should contact their academic advisor or Accessible Education, whichever is more relevant to the situation.

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for attempted or completed work, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar’s webpage:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/>

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

For students who have received academic consideration through an Academic Consideration request: If accommodation is granted for a quiz, the student will write a make up quiz as soon as they are able. If accommodation is granted for a discussion forum, the student will submit their discussion post(s) to the instructor as soon as they are able. When a student receives academic considerations or academic accommodations which overlap with the built-in flexibility of the assessment, the longest period of accommodation will determine the deadline. The built-in flexibility of the assessment should not be taken to extend any considerations or accommodations.

Note that supporting documentation is always required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (including the final exam for this course). If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able. 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

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>. If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support on the OWL Brightspace Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

OFFICE HOURS

The TA and I are happy to meet with students who want help succeeding in the course. Office hours will be online on Zoom and by appointment. Please send an email to me or the TA if you would like to meet for any reason during the semester.

EMAIL

The TA and I will do our best to answer all emails within 24 hours on weekdays and by the next workday during weekends or holidays (i.e. if you email after 5 PM on a Friday, you might not get a response until Monday). If we 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. We will not respond to emails sent from personal accounts, since we 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 Registrar 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.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of AI tools such as ChatGPT to create content that is submitted as one's own. In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. Students must however critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, however students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students own thoughts and independent written work.

Quizzes are open-book but are meant to be taken by the student without interaction with other students. Forbidden collaboration on quizzes includes, but is not limited to, the dissemination or reception of questions or answers from in-progress quizzes between students and cooperation or discussion between students while writing the quizzes.

Academic Counselling

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/>

CLASS SCHEDULE

All materials will be posted on OWL. Please watch videos in the order provided.

Week One: September 9-13

Introduction to Archaeology

Introduction to the Ancient Mediterranean and Western Asia

Gates reading: Introduction

Assessments: None

Week Two: September 16-20

The Start of Urbanism

Neolithic Towns and Villages

Gates reading: Chapter 1

Assessments: Discussion Forum 1 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-5PM Friday

Week Three: September 23-27

Mesopotamian Cities

Gates reading: Chapter 3

Assessments: Quiz 1 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-5 PM Friday

Week Four: September 30-October 4

Non-instructional day: September 30

Minoan Cities

Cycladic Cities

Gates reading: Chapter 7 page 129-141 (end of Thera section)

Assessments: Discussion Forum 2 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-5 PM Friday

Week Five: October 7-11

Mycenaean Cities

Troy

Gates reading: Chapter 7 page 141-150, Chapter 8

Assessments: Quiz 2 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-5 PM Friday

Reading Week (No classes): October 12-20

Week Six: October 21-25

Greek Iron Age Cities

Persepolis

Gates reading: Chapter 12, Chapter 10 page 203-207

Assessments: Discussion Forum 3 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-5 PM Friday

Week Seven: October 28-November 1

Athens

Gates reading: Chapters 14 and 16

Assessments: Quiz 3 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-5 PM Friday

Week Eight: November 4-8

Hellenistic Cities

Gates reading: Chapter 18

Assessments: Discussion Forum 4 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-5 PM Friday

Week Nine: November 11-15

Rome: Development and Republic

Gates reading: Chapter 21

Assessments: Quiz 4 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-5 PM Friday

Week Ten: November 18-22

Rome: Capital of the Empire

Gates reading: Chapters 23 and 25

Assessments: Discussion Forum 5 – Open from 12:00 AM Monday-5 PM Friday

Week Eleven: November 25-29

Pompeii and Herculaneum

Readings: Chapter 24 page 424-440

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

Week Twelve: December 2-6

The Roman Provinces

Readings: Chapter 26

Assessments: None