ANCIENT CITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
CS 2500B: Winter 2019

WELCOME to CS 2500!
The civilizations of the ancient Mediterranean were some of the best city-builders in human history, with
discoveries that allowed them to construct colossal buildings, to implement vast systems for moving water and
waste, and to house hundreds of thousands of people in small urban spaces. Did you know that 2,500 years ago
the Greeks built temples the size of a football field? And the Romans invented concrete with which they built
towering apartment buildings and revolving dining rooms? “Ancient Cities” is an introductory survey of the urban
centers of the ancient Mediterranean world. The course focuses on the archaeological remains of some of the most
impressive cities and civilizations in human history, such as Jericho, Mycenae, Athens, Rome and Pompeii. The
course begins with the earliest signs of urban organization in the archaeological record of the Near East and tracks
the evolution of the physical layout and social organization of urban life through 10,000 years of history in the
Mediterranean. The course focuses primarily on the vast urban centers of the Greeks and Romans, many of which
are still thriving cities today.

I am Dr. Elizabeth Greene and I will be your instructor for this course. I am an Assistant Professor of Roman
Archaeology in the Department of Classical Studies. I teach courses on all aspects of Classical Archaeology
(primarily Greek and Roman), particularly the archaeology of the Roman world and the Roman provinces in
Western Europe. I have worked on archaeological excavations in Tuscany and Rome, and on various military
forts along the Roman frontier in England. Currently, I am involved in an on-going excavation project at a site
called Vindolanda located near Hadrian’s Wall in northern England, where I co-direct a field school for Western
students to train in excavation technique and the history and archaeology of Roman Britain. Please feel free to
discuss with me any aspect of archaeology, how to get involved with the field school, or to take part in other
archaeological projects happening around the Classical world.
## CONTACT INFO

**INSTRUCTOR:**
Dr. Elizabeth Greene  
Associate Professor of Roman Archaeology  
Department of Classical Studies

**OFFICE:**
Lawson Building, Room 3208  
519-661-2111, ext. 84571

**OFFICE HOURS:**
Tuesday, 3:30-4:30 PM  
Thursday, 9:30-10:30 AM  
(or by appointment egreene2@uwo.ca)

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:**
Tara Jacklin (Office Hours TBA)  
Emily Boger (Office Hours TBA)  
*Office hours and locations will be posted on the front page of the OWL site

## CLASS INFO

**CLASS MEETINGS:**
Tues/Thurs.  
10:30-11:20

### ASSESSMENT (all exams are multiple choice format)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Test #1</td>
<td>Thursday, February 7th</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Test #2</td>
<td>Tuesday, March 19th</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>(scheduled by registrar, April exam period)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Required Course Material:** Gates Textbook  
(you must get the 2nd edition)  

## NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS and HUMANITIES:
You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

## PLAGIARISM:
Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

## POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS:
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)  
Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT. UWO ACCESSIBILITY POLICY:
Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services:  
[http://accessibility.uwo.ca/](http://accessibility.uwo.ca/)

## MENTAL HEALTH:
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western  
COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS:
In the first few weeks of the course, the earliest known villages (ca. 12,500 BC) and cities (ca. 3000 B.C.) in Mesopotamia and the Near East will serve as case studies for detecting the rise of urbanization and social organization in the archaeological record. We will consider such questions as: 1) How can we discuss the social organization of an urban center when we find large walls and towers in the archaeological record?; 2) What is the meaning of the presence of an authoritative figure found in artistic representations?; 3) How do we evaluate the central placement of a religious precinct in an archaeological site? We will consider how these spaces were built, who became politically important in these early communities, and how we can deduce social organization from the archaeological record.

The primary focus of the course will trace the evolution of urbanization with major emphasis on the well-known cities of the Greek and Roman worlds. We begin with the early civilizations of the Minoans and Mycenaeans on Crete and the Greek mainland (ca. 3000-1200 BC) and will look at the colossal palaces and city walls of Knossos and Mycenae, their impressive wall paintings, and rich tombs and grave goods. We will consider what all this material means for our understanding of the organization of the city at this time. Tracing the rise of cities in Greece (“the Polis”) takes us through some of the most impressive archaeological sites in the Mediterranean, investigating the important political and religious centers at Athens, Sparta, Delphi and Olympia (ca. 750-300 BC) among others.

The last part of the course investigates Italy and the Roman world. Readings on the early civilizations in Italy (Villanovans, Etruscans, ca. 1000-500 BC) will be the background to understanding the meteoric rise of Rome and its eventual conquest of the entire Mediterranean (ca. 500 BC – AD 200). The Roman Republic and Empire will be discussed considering new approaches to urban development, use of borrowed urban characteristics, and the use of the city as a backdrop for displaying power and wealth. We will consider the varied approaches the Romans took in order to subjugate well-developed cultures around the Mediterranean, considering closely how the city of Rome itself became the center of a large empire and how its rulers incorporated material culture borrowed from these conquered peoples.

During this course, students will develop an understanding of the processes behind urbanization in general and the archaeological and historical setting of ancient cities in the Mediterranean in particular. Student should be able to critically assess concepts such as ‘city’ or ‘urban’, and recognize the strengths and limitations of the archaeological data. We will end with consideration of our own urban environment and how we may better understand our own social organization through the study of ancient urbanization.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students are expected to be able to:

I. Understand basic archaeological terms and concepts of dating and evaluating archaeological evidence.

II. Understand the basic historical timeline and the physical components of the civilizations of the ancient Mediterranean, especially those of Greece and Rome.

III. Identify the archaeological traces of urbanization in the ancient Mediterranean and how we interpret this material to understand the social organization of urban centers.

IV. Identify characteristics of specific ancient cities (e.g. Jericho, Knossos, Athens, Pompeii) by reading a plan or with images of its specific features (e.g. temples, houses, defenses, sculpture).

V. Articulate how the “built environment” of a city reflects social and political organization and how this urban environment was used as a backdrop for political means.

VI. Understand how past monuments and motifs were manipulated and incorporated for political gain (particularly the role of the Greek cultural past in the development of the city of Rome).
LEARNING OUTCOMES/TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Students completing this course are expected to have acquired:

I. historical perspective: An understanding of the need to consider civilizations and cities within their own historical circumstance, as well as within the broader context of history. The span of the course content and class discussions will allow students to reflect upon 10,000 years of human history in the Mediterranean.

II. appreciation of the physical environment: How the monuments, buildings, street layout, etc. in any historical period may signify important ideals such as status, identity, and power, on both the civic and individual level. Throughout the course both lectures and discussions will emphasize the messages present in the physical layout of cities.

III. the ability to analyze primary evidence (archaeological, documentary, artistic, etc.): Students should gain a developed understanding of the potential, as well as limits and restrictions, of our evidence in the reconstruction of ancient societies. Our class discussions will provide practice and guidance in this interpretation.

IV. communication skills: The ability to present succinct thoughts in oral discussion is important, which students will practice by stating opinions and posing questions to their peers towards advancing group discussion. It is hoped that students will learn to be inquisitive, to question presumed “fact,” and to learn to craft an argument for oral presentation. This should not only involve the repetition of learned knowledge but analysis and conclusions that newly acquired knowledge may lead to in other spheres.

COLLABORATION AND INDIVIDUAL WORK

Any learning experience is highly enhanced by group discussion, teaching your peers, and asking questions of me and your classmates. I encourage you throughout the course to create study groups, to quiz each other on historical and aesthetic details learned in the course, and to help each other with difficult topics when necessary. These efforts will always create livelier discussion in class and ultimately help you remember information and utilize facts towards a greater understanding of our subject matter and better performance on assignments.

It is expected, however, that all of your quizzes, exams, and any other assignments (i.e. things that are passed into me for course assessment) will be your own original work that you have completed on your own and in your own words. As an example, it is always very useful to study with a group for an upcoming test or exam and this is highly encouraged. What you will want to avoid, however, is collaborating while taking quizzes or tests. You want to discuss ideas, test each other on facts, and learn from each other. You DO NOT want to give each other answers in any way during tests. This would be considered cheating and is an academic offence on the part of all involved. This is only one example, so please, if you have any questions about what does and does not constitute an academic offence, please come discuss this with me and see the Academic Handbook section on scholastic offences:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY USE

I will post PowerPoint lectures in advance of the class. It is perfectly acceptable for you to download these and have them on your laptop for class (in fact, I suggest this). You will be able to follow along with the lecture and not waste time writing down what is written on the slide. Sometimes the lecture will only appear the morning of the class. This is unavoidable as I reserve the right to make last minute changes and additions to the PowerPoint before it is covered in class. PowerPoint presentations will be based on the current subject of the class (e.g. Classical Athens) and the same file may be used for more than one lecture period. I will label files accordingly by the week to minimize any confusion.
I expect that laptops will be used in class for academic purposes. If you choose to spend the hour doing other things on your computer not related to class you will be disturbing your peers around you. Please be conscious of this and respect others in the class. **Laptops, other electronic devices and study aids are NOT allowed in tests or exams.**

**COURSE COMPONENTS:**

**Lectures and Attendance:**
I will not take daily attendance in this course, but it is highly recommended that you attend lectures. The most important part of this course is class meetings. Lectures will use the assigned reading as background and will build on the reading topics as well as introduce new material. **Exams are based on what is presented in class lectures in addition to textbook reading.** Lecture will often overlap with the reading, though not always, but where it does is an indication of importance. There will be new information presented in lecture that you will have no background on from the course textbook (e.g., examples of buildings or cities).

The PowerPoint presentations will be posted on OWL. Since this is an archaeology class, there will be many images that you will be expected to recognize and analyze throughout the course. Images will appear in the PowerPoint presentation for the week’s discussions as well as in the Gates textbook. Images will be labeled with their identification and date, but there will be highly relevant information about the buildings, cities and archaeological sites discussed that will only be accessible in the class lecture, including formal presentation by me and informal student participation and discussion. If you miss a class, it is advised that you obtain notes from a fellow student and the images from OWL, and I encourage you to utilize office hours with questions after you have familiarized yourself with the material.

**Midterm and final exams:**
All exams are multiple choice. They will always emphasize the understanding of major concepts and ideas rather than tiny details (though you will indeed need to memorize factual information in this course in order to gain a solid base of knowledge). I will ask you to know specific dates and features of important buildings and events (e.g.: What architectural style is the Parthenon in Athens? In what historical period and place was the Parthenon constructed?). I am not looking for you to memorize small details that have little consequence for understanding broader concepts (e.g.: What are the dimensions of the platform on which the Parthenon stands?). The exam questions are never out to trick you, but they will take careful thought and understanding of the course material to answer correctly. **Especially on the final exam, you will need to think critically about the question in order to discover the correct answer— you will not always be given the answer directly in class. Rather, you are given the tools and knowledge in lectures that will allow you to figure out the answer.**

The midterm tests are non-cumulative (they cover just the block of information from the first and second parts of the class respectively). The final exam is cumulative and covers material from the whole semester, including lectures and readings. The course builds upon itself throughout the semester and cannot be understood without overall comprehension of the material up to that point. Concepts of urbanization will always cross over test dates, as will comparisons of cities throughout a long period of time in the Mediterranean. As an example, the city of Rome will quite intentionally utilize iconography and architectural forms from Classical Athens. We will discuss these processes and you will be expected to make these connections. The midterm tests will include all material covered up to the lecture before the test period. I will make it clear in class what material is on the midterm tests.

Exams are multiple choice (Midterms are 50 questions taken in a single class period; the Final exam is 100 questions taken in a 2-hour test period during the time scheduled by the registrar). Tests will include images for assessment that were encountered in the PowerPoint presentations. I will choose the most important images seen.
throughout the course (i.e. you will not be asked to memorize and recall every image that is shown in class!) and before the exams I will put those images in a folder on OWL marked, “Test/exam review images”. Students will be responsible for identifying the place and general time period represented in the image and for understanding how these images pertain to our study of urbanization (e.g. I may ask a question about an image such as: What is the date and cultural group that constructed this building/pot/defensive wall? OR, What does the presence of this building/pot/defensive wall suggest about the social organization of this city in which it was found?).

**No books, notes, laptops or any electronic devices are allowed to be used during quizzes, tests or exams**

**Make-up tests and exams will only be given with a dean’s approval. If you miss an assignment it is not up to me to decide if your case warrants a make-up. Please take all such concerns to the academic counselor in the dean’s office of your own faculty. Please take note now of all test and assignment dates listed at the top of the syllabus and confirm that you are available for test and assignment due dates. The final exam date is set by the registrar and is non-negotiable. Please do not schedule travel during the exam period.**

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE: Lectures, Reading Assignments, Test dates**

**PART 1: Using the Archaeological Record (technique, dating, analysis of socio-political organization): Introduction to the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East**

**Week 1 (Jan. 8-10): Course Introduction**
Overview of chronology and Geography of the Mediterranean in antiquity

**Week 2 (Jan. 15-17): Introductory material**
Dating in archaeology, archaeological technique (definitions, terms and concepts in archaeology)
Finish Archaeological study and technique

**READING for weeks 1-2: Gates, Introduction (1-10); Study timelines and maps in Gates**
Introduction to have a general idea of when things happened that we will discuss in this course; Gates, Chapter 1.

**Week 3 (Jan. 22-24):**
Introduction to early urbanization, 10,000-5000 BC
How do we understand socio-political organization from archaeology? Jericho Case Study
Mesopotamian Cities in the 3rd and 2nd millenia BC: Concepts of kingship and changing priorities
**READING for week 3: Gates, Chapter 2; Gates, Chapter 3.**

**PART 2: The Prehistoric Mediterranean: Urban Development in the Bronze Age and Dark Age in Greece and its models (where do the ideas emerge first?)**

**Week 4 (Jan. 29-31):**
Review Mesopotamian precursors to Greek urbanization
Minoan Cities on Crete (2000-1400 BC)

**Week 5 (Feb. 5-7): Test #1**
Finish Minoan Cities on Crete (2000-1400 BC)

**READING for weeks 4-5: Gates, Chapter 7, ‘Aegean Bronze Age Towns and Cities’, Minoan Civilization readings.**
February 7: Midterm test #1 (All material covered from the beginning of the class is on the exam; all material from lecture and readings may be covered on the exam)

Week 6 (Feb. 12-14):
Mycenaean cities on the Greek mainland (1600-1200 BC)
Finish Mycenaean cities
Collapse of the Bronze Age, ca. 1200 BC

**READING for week 6:** Gates, Chapter 7, ‘Aegean Bronze Age Towns and Cities’, Mycenaean Civilization readings.

**READING WEEK: FEBRUARY 18-22. NO CLASS**

PART 3: The emergence of developed cities in the Mediterranean: Mainland Greece

Week 7 (Feb. 26-28):
The Greek Dark Age: Re-emergence of urban centers. Lefkandi case study
The “Greek Renaissance”

Week 8 (March 5-7):
The emergence of the developed Greek cities and Sanctuaries.

**READING for weeks 7-8:** Gates, Chapter 12, ‘Early Greek city-states of the Iron Age’; Gates, Chapters 13 and 14 ‘Archaic Greek Cities I and II’; Gates, Chapter 15, ‘Greek Sanctuaries’

Week 9 (March 12-14):
Fifth-century BC Athens: Perikles and the Acropolis
Fifth Century BC Athens—The Acropolis and the Agora

**READING for week 9:** Gates, Chapter 16, ‘Athens in the fifth century BC’; Chapter 17, “Greek Cities and Sanctuaries in the Late Classical Period.”

Week 10 (March 21):
Urban development in Rome: early urbanization (ca. 800-509 BC)

**READING for week 10:** Gates, Chapter 20, ‘Rome from its origins to the end of the Republic’

Week 11 (March 26-28):
Rome as an imperial capital (1st c. BC and 1st century AD)
The developed Imperial capital: Rome in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD

**READING for week 11:** Gates, Chapter 21, ‘Rome in the Age of Augustus’;
Gates, Chapter 23, ‘Rome from Nero to Hadrian’

Week 12 (April 2-4):
The City of Pompeii: A developed Italian town
Ostia: The Port City of Rome

**READING for week 12:** Gates, Chapter 22, ‘Italy outside the capital’
Week 13 (April 9): Catch up on course content and review for final exam.

FINAL EXAM: Scheduled by Registrar during exam period.

The final exam is cumulative (material from the whole semester will be covered)

There are NO scheduled MAKEUP EXAMS unless you have a University sanctioned excuse (e.g. 2 exams scheduled at the same exact time). Please do not ask me if you can take the exam at a different time for the purposes of travel or similar excuses. You should plan to be on campus for the entire exam period and make travel plans only after the final exam schedule is released by the Registrar. Any accommodation for missed exams can be given by the DEANS OFFICE ONLY, not by individual faculty members or departments.