

ARCH361: The Topography and Monuments of Athens Fall Semester 2019

Course Instructor

NAME **Prof. Robert K. Pitt**

Class Meetings

Monday/Wednesday 08.45-10.20

1. Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive overview of the topography, archaeology and history of Athens from the earliest prehistoric settlement through to the demise of the city in Late Antiquity, but focuses particularly on the monuments and culture of the Archaic to Roman periods.

Classes are taught on-site and cover all the major (and many minor) sites around Athens, giving a complete picture of the ancient city in its urban, social, religious, and historical contexts.

One of the main aims of the course is to investigate how an understanding of the physical fabric of Athens can inform important historical questions about Athenian Democracy, Empire, religion, and political and social life. The course will also place Athenian sites and monuments into their modern setting, exploring the discovery of ancient Athens from the earliest modern travelers in the 15th century AD, to the origins of scientific excavations in the 19th century, and will look at how ancient Athens is being excavated and preserved today.

2. Course Resources and Activities

In order to explore these topographical questions, the course includes a detailed bibliography of important primary sources and secondary literature, from which we will draw evidence and debates for the class tours, as well as the student presentations and essays. Through an engagement with the sources and the archaeology on the ground we will learn how to build up a picture of the city of Athens over millennia. A key component of the learning experience is the student presentation, in which each course member is assigned a monument or site to research and to guide the group around, developing key skills in oral presentation, as well as contributing to group-led enquiry. One research paper is also required for the course, through which each student explores a historical/archaeological question with advice from the instructor to choose appropriate bibliography and research methodologies and produce an essay in the style of modern academic publications.

3. Requirements

Topography is designed for students with a background in Classics or Classical Civilization, and so you must have already taken relevant courses at your home institution (e.g., Greek historiography, archaeology and history of Greece, Greek art and architecture).

Students should expect to read for the classes themselves a minimum of 4 hours per week. There is a strong focus on written work during the course, with students working together with the tutor to develop their academic prose style, paper-writing skills, and bibliography development, key transferable skills which will be of use in other courses.

- **Rescue excavation report:** students will choose a major rescue excavation from the last 20 years in Athens that has visible results today and write a report on why the excavation happened, what was found, how that links in with the wider history of the area, and how the antiquities were subsequently displayed. You can, for example, choose one of the metro excavation sites, or the salvage excavation for the siting of the New Acropolis Museum. The report should be around 1500 words. **DEADLINE Friday September 27th.**
- **On-site presentation:** During the semester, each student will give an on-site presentation on a specific monument or site. Presentations should be approximately 15-20 minutes long, covering all aspects of the archaeology and history of the monument. Students must be prepared to talk in a freehand manner, although consulting notes is of course allowed. Presentations should be rehearsed beforehand as students need to be familiar with the site they will guide the class around.

The object is to focus the student's research skills by following up the publication history of a monument, and to improve public speaking skills, which can be more complicated on-site than in traditional classroom presentations. The presentation will be graded on the student's ability to link what they have read with the material on the ground, their style, audibility, and ability to communicate, their performance in dealing with questions, and the usefulness of their handout. Students are expected to prepare appropriate handouts for the class, illustrated with architectural plans and other relevant images and bullet-point notes they choose to emphasize. Typically, 2-4 pages of A4 will suffice. A good handout should include the presenter's name, the title of the course, the title of the specific presentation, the date, provide clear and informative captions to the illustrations, and a bibliography of works consulted. Students should liaise with the instructor in advance for a list of bibliography and to avoid repetition with other handouts for that session.

- **Midterm exam:** The midterm exam will consist of a series of excavation/architectural plans with associated questions on sites covered in the first half of the semester. **Date: Monday October 21st.**
- Students are required to write **one research paper** of no less than 3,000 words, excluding bibliography. The object of this exercise is to engage fully with a variety of both primary

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evidence and secondary literature and to deploy that evidence in answering a historical question. Students can choose their own topics, but must agree a title and bibliography with the instructor by **Wednesday November 13th**. **The deadline for submission is Friday December 6th**.

4. Grading and Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

- Excavation report (20%)
- On-site presentation (20%)
- Midterm exam (20%)
- Research paper (30%)
- Attendance, punctuality, and participation (10%)

5. Class Attendance - Absences

Student attendance of all classes is mandatory; we will not wait for late-comers, so please be on time at the stipulated meeting point. It is your responsibility to make sure you know where the meeting point is and how long it will take you to find it. Continued lateness will harm your grade (10% of the final grade). In view of the nature of this course, which is based upon on-site instruction, no unexcused absences are allowed. In case of illness, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor (preferably in advance) and to make up for missed work (see also the general stipulations of CYA). If you have to miss a class due to illness, you should notify the Student Affairs Office.

Students are also expected to participate in classes, and so make sure they are well-rested for these early morning meetings, it is not enough to turn up only in body!

Most meetings will be held on sites, which we can enter for free as a group. Be on time! If you are late and have to enter individually, you may be charged the standard rate. As a precaution, always bring your student ID and museum/site passes. Bad weather will not cancel classes, so check the forecast in advance and be prepared for rain and wind with appropriate warm clothing, umbrella or waterproofs.

Please note: Guests are not permitted to attend the classes.

6. Class schedule, meeting points, and reading

Basic class reading is noted below each class in the schedule, and will be expanded with further articles throughout the semester. The reading is **compulsory** because the tours rely on pointing out the physical evidence for the background discussions encountered in the bibliography. Getting behind on the reading always leads to students having problems with the exams, so keep ahead of it and make good detailed notes on the sites and their historical contexts, bringing any related questions to class. Each class will also have a handout, with plans and notes for the monuments

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visited, and further bibliography to help gain a deeper knowledge on particular issues of relevance for the final exam and essays.

Monday, September 9th

1. Introduction to the course and the syllabus.

Meet: classroom CB-2.

Wednesday, September 11th

2. The topography of the city and plain of Athens from Philopappos Hill.

Meet: On Dionysiou Areopagitou, the pedestrianized street around the Acropolis, where it begins from Amalias Avenue, opposite the Arch of Hadrian.

Class reading: Camp (2001) chapter 1; Hurwit (1999) chapter 1.

Monday, September 16th

3. The Agora I: general introduction and early history

Meet: Agora main gate on Adrianou.

Class reading: Camp (1992) Chapters 1-2

Monday, September 23rd

4. The Agora II: The Classical period

Meet: Agora main gate on Adrianou.

Class reading: Camp (1992) Chapter 3

Wednesday, September 25th

5. The Agora III: The Hellenistic and Roman periods

Meet: Agora main gate on Adrianou.

Class reading: Camp (1992) Chapter 4

[September 27th: rescue excavation report due]

Monday, September 30th

6. Kerameikos I: General Topography

Meet: Kerameikos entrance on Ermou

Class reading: Knigge (1991) 7-94 (together with following class).

Wednesday, October 2nd

7. Kerameikos II: The Cemetery

Meet: Kerameikos entrance on Ermou

Class reading: Knigge (1991) 7-94.

Monday, October 7th

8. The Walls of Athens: a walking tour.

Meet: Outside Theseio metro station.

Class reading: A. M. Theodoraki, 'The Ancient Circuit Wall of Athens: Its Changing Course and the Phases of Construction,' *Hesperia* 80 (2011) 71-156 (Moodle).

Wednesday, October 9th

9. The Pnyx and the deme site of Koile

Meet: Corner of Dionysiou Areopagitou and Apostolou Pavlou.

Class reading: M. H. Hansen, The Athenian Ecclesia and the Assembly-Place on the Pnyx, *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* 23 (1982) 241-249 (Moodle)

Friday, October 11th [makeup M/W]

10. Areopagos, Hill of the Muses, Philopappos monument.

Meet: Corner of Dionysiou Areopagitou and Apostolou Pavlou.

Class reading: Sections in Travlos (1971) on Areopagos, Philopappos.

Monday, October 14th

11. The Acropolis from Mycenaean Palace to the Persian Wars.

Meet: Acropolis main west entrance.

Class reading: Camp (2001) chapters 2 and 3; Hurwit (1999) chapter 4.

Extra reading: K. Glowacki, The Acropolis of Athens before 566 B.C., in K. Hartswick and M. Sturgeon (eds) *STEPHANOS: Papers in honor of Brunilde Sismondo Ridgway*, Philadelphia, 1998, 79-88 (Moodle).

Wednesday, October 16th

12. Acropolis Museum: Archaic monuments and the Persian Wars.

Meet: Acropolis Museum entrance.

Class reading: Hurwit (1999) chapters 5 and 6.

Extra reading: N. Klein, The Architecture of the Athenian Acropolis before Perikles, in K. Daly (ed.) *Cities Called Athens*, 2015, 137-163 (Moodle); A. Stewart, 'The Persian and Carthaginian Invasions of 480 B.C.E. and the Beginning of the Classical Style: Part 1, The Stratigraphy, Chronology, and Significance of the Acropolis Deposits,' *American Journal of Archaeology* 112 (2008) 377-412 (Moodle)

Monday, October 21st

13. Midterm exam

Meet: CB-2

Wednesday, October 23rd

14. The Acropolis from the Persian Wars to the mid-fifth century BC.

Meet: Acropolis main west entrance.

Class reading: Hurwit (1999) chapter 7.

Extra reading: G. Ferrari, The Ancient Temple on the Acropolis at Athens, *American Journal of Archaeology* 106 (2002) 11-35 (Moodle).

Wednesday, October 30th

15. Acropolis: The Parthenon (including a visit to the restoration works in progress).

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Meet: Acropolis main west entrance.

Class reading: Camp (2001) 74-82; Hurwit (1999) chapter 8.

Monday, November 4th

16. Acropolis: The Propylaia, west entrance to the Acropolis, and the Athena Nike sanctuary.

Meet: Acropolis main west entrance.

Class reading: Camp (2001) 82-92; Hurwit (1999) chapter 9.

Monday, November 11th

17. Acropolis: The Erechtheion, smaller monuments.

Meet: Acropolis main west entrance.

Class reading: Camp (2001) 90-100.

Wednesday, November 13th **[+ deadline for agreeing final paper topic]**

18. Acropolis Museum: The Periclean building program and its sculpture

Meet: Acropolis Museum

Class reading: Hurwit (1999) chapter 9.

Monday, November 18th

19. Acropolis Slopes I: Sanctuary of Dionysos and choragic monuments.

Meet: Theatre of Dionysos entrance opposite the Acropolis Museum.

Class reading: Travlos (1971) on Dionysos Sanctuary.

Wednesday, November 20th

20. Acropolis Slopes II: Odeion of Herodes Atticus, Asklepieion, peripatos.

Meet: Acropolis main west entrance.

Class reading: Travlos (1971) on Odeion of Herodes Atticus, Asklepieion.

Monday, December 2nd

21. Roman Athens: The Roman Agora, Library of Hadrian.

Meet: outside Monastiraki metro station on the square.

Class reading: Camp (2001) chapter 7; Travlos (1971) on the Agora of Caesar and Augustus; Hadrian, Library.

Wednesday, December 4th

22. The Ilissos valley.

Meet: outside CYA.

Class reading: Travlos (1971) on Ilissos Area, Artemis Agrotera, Hadrian, Olympian Zeus; Wycherley, R. E. *The Stones of Athens*. Princeton 1978, 155-174.

Monday, December 9th

23. The Epigraphic Museum

Meet: Epigraphic Museum, Tositsa Street, next to the National Archaeological Museum.

Class reading: R. K. Pitt, 'New epigraphic finds in Athens', *AR* 61 (2015) 49-55 (Moodle).

Wednesday, December 11th

24. Byzantine and Ottoman Athens.

Meet: outside the Monastiraki metro station on the square.

Class reading: Camp (2001) chapter 7 & epilogue.

7. General Bibliography

- Camp, J. McK. (2001) *The Archaeology of Athens*. New Haven & London. This is a student textbook with chapters on historical periods and then a useful glossary of sites at the back with plans and further reading.
- Travlos, J. (1971) *The Pictorial Dictionary of Ancient Athens*. New York. This is a monumental work of Athenian topography, site by site, and should be consulted for all monuments we visit. Travlos' extensive bibliographies are updated in J. Travlos, *Bildlexikon zur Topographie des antiken Attika* (Tübingen, Germany: Ernst Wasmuth Verlag, 1988), pp. 23–51, but since then many new excavations and studies have to be taken into account.
- Wycherley, R. E. (1978) *The Stones of Athens*. Princeton. A good general introduction to Athenian topography.
- Hurwit, J. M. (1999) *The Athenian Acropolis*. Cambridge. A huge work covering the whole history of the Acropolis. A smaller version, although more thorough on the High Classical monuments is:
- Hurwit, J. M. (2004) *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles*. Cambridge.
- Camp, J. McK. (1992, revision of 1986) *The Athenian Agora*. London. The main archaeological guide to the Agora by its current excavator.
- Camp, J. McK. (2010) *The Athenian Agora Site Guide*. Princeton. A tourist guide monument by monument through the Agora.
- Gawlinksy, L. (2014) *The Athenian Agora Museum Guide*. Princeton.
- Thompson, H. A. and R. E. Wycherley (1972) *The Athenian Agora*, volume XIV: *The Agora of Athens*. Princeton. The major work on the American excavations of the Agora up until ca. 1970, very detailed on all monuments.
- Knigge, U. 1991. *The Athenian Kerameikos*. Athens. The main archaeological guide to the site by its former director.
- Forsén, B. and G. Stanton (eds) (1996) *The Pnyx in the History of Athens*. Athens. A collection of useful essays on the topography and history of the Pnyx.
- Hoff, M. C. and S. I. Rotroff (eds) (1997) *The Romanization of Athens*. Oxbow Monographs. Useful collection of articles on Roman Athens and the influence of Rome on the city.
- Stampolides, N. and L. Parlama (eds) (2000) *Athens: The city beneath the city: Antiquities from the Metropolitan Railway excavations*. London and New York. Exhibition catalogue and description of the huge series of excavations undertaken for the construction of the metro.

A website devoted to the topography of Athens has been compiled by Kevin T. Glowacki with many plans, essays, and photos: <http://www.stoa.org/athens/index.html>

The latest excavations to be reported in the press or published by excavators in Athens are translated into a digest and added to the searchable online database *Archaeology in Greece Online* (<http://www.chronique.efa.gr/>) by the British and French Schools at Athens. You can search for types of object, period, site type, or search for a particular word (so, for example, you might want to

see if any new work has been done on the walls of Athens: search Athens – fortifications – Archaic/Classical/Hellenistic etc.) More synthetic essays about recent excavations and trends in archaeology have been produced from these online reports in the printed versions called *Archaeology in Greece*, a section of the journal *Archaeological Reports*, which is published by the British School at Athens and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies and is also available through JSTOR.

The following recent print issues contain summaries of Athenian archaeological discoveries over the last 10 years or so, many of them on Moodle and on Reserve:

Pitt, R. K., 'Athens and Attica,' *AR* 54 (2007-2008) 3-11; 'Athens and Attica,' *AR* 55 (2008-2009) 3-6; 'Athens and Attica,' *AR* 56 (2009-2010) 3-19; 'Athens and Attica: Prehistoric to Roman,' *AR* 57 (2010-2011) 31-48; 'Museums and displays in the recent archaeology of Athens and Attika,' *AR* 58 (2011-2012) 28-29; 'The city of Athens,' *AR* 60 (2014) 38-49; 'New epigraphic finds in Athens,' *AR* 61 (2015) 49-55.

A selection of the bibliography and other resources are available in the course's Moodle pages, which will be updated regularly.