

# Lewis & Clarke at CYA

## The Topography and Monuments of Athens

Fall Semester 2017

### Course Instructor

NAME           **Prof. Robert K. Pitt**

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HOURS           **After class or by appointment**

AVAILABLE

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### Class Meetings

See detailed list below for           11.00-13.00  
dates and meeting points

### 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, 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

Students should expect to read for the classes themselves a minimum of 4 hours per week.

- Students will write in the first few weeks of the course an **excavation report** based on the latest archaeological investigations in the city. This can focus on a recent rescue excavation (such as a metro station, or the New Acropolis Museum dig) or look at the last few years of work at a systematic excavation (Ancient Agora, Kerameikos). The report should be no less than 1500 words, and include plans and photographs of the site in question. The bibliography on the latest excavations is necessarily small, so you will need to search for newspaper reports, look for information panels at the site itself, and consult the latest reports in the print journal *Archaeological Reports*, and its online translation of sources *Archaeology in Greece Online*. The report aims to develop the student's awareness of the most up-to-date sources for Athenian topography, and to link them with previously known sites and discussions of the surrounding areas. The **deadline is Wednesday, September 13th**.
- The **mid-term exam** (Tuesday, September 26th) consists of plans of 4 buildings and sites encountered during the first half of the course with short questions and identifications about them (date, phase of the building etc.).
- Students are required to write **one research paper** of no less than 4,000 words, excluding bibliography. **The deadline is Friday, December 1st**.

The object of this exercise is to engage fully with a variety of both primary evidence and secondary literature and to deploy that evidence in answering a historical question. Students can choose their own topics, but must discuss a title and bibliography with the instructor in advance.

The essay will be graded on:

- Level of reading of the bibliography and engagement with previous scholarship.
- Originality of thought and personal input into the subject.
- Clarity of argument and structure of the essay.
- Use of a variety of evidence to inform a historical or archaeological subject.
- Style and clarity of language, and format appropriate to an academic paper.

- **On-site presentations**

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.

#### **4. Grading and Evaluation**

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

- Excavation report (20%)
- Mid-term exam (20%)
- Research paper (30%)
- On-site presentation (20%)
- 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 lose you grade points (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 and to make up for missed work.

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

Thursday, August 31st

**1.** 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.

Tuesday, September 5th

**2.** 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.

Thursday, September 7th

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

Meet: Acropolis main west entrance.

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

Tuesday, September 12th

**4.** Acropolis Museum

Meet: Acropolis Museum entrance.

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

Wednesday, September 13th

**5.** The Agora I: General topography and early history

Meet: Agora main gate on Adrianou.

Class reading: Camp (1992) Chapters 1-2

Tuesday, September 19th

**6.** The Agora II: The Classical period

Meet: Agora main gate on Adrianou.

Class reading: Camp (1992) Chapter 3.

Thursday, September 21st

**7.** The Agora III: The Hellenistic and Roman periods

Meet: Agora main gate on Adrianou.

Class reading: Camp (1992) Chapter 4.

Tuesday, September 26th

**8.** Mid-term exam

Meet: A-C 2

Thursday, September 28th

**9.** Acropolis: The Propylaia and the temple of Athena Nike.

Meet: Acropolis main west entrance.  
Class reading: Camp (2001) 82-92; Hurwit (1999) chapter 9.

Tuesday, October 31st

**10. Acropolis: The Erechtheion.**  
Meet: Acropolis main west entrance.  
Class reading: Camp (2001) 90-100.

Thursday, November 2nd

**11. The Kerameikos**  
Meet: Kerameikos archaeological site on Ermou Street.  
Class reading Knigge 1991.

Tuesday, November 7th

**12. The Pnyx and the deme site of Koile**  
Meet: Corner of Dionysiou Areopagitou and Apostolou Pavlou.  
Class reading: a selection of texts in Moodle.

Thursday, November 9th

**13. The Acropolis Slopes: Herodeion, Asklepieion, Sanctuary of Dionysos.**  
Meet: Theatre of Dionysos entrance opposite the Acropolis Museum.  
Class reading: Travlos (1971) on Odeion of Herodes Atticus, Asklepieion, Dionysos Sanctuary.

Friday, November 10th

**14. The Walls of Athens: a walking tour.**  
Meet: Corner of Dionysiou Areopagitou and Apostolou Pavlou.  
Class reading: A. M. Theocharaki, 'The Ancient Circuit Wall of Athens: Its Changing Course and the Phases of Construction,' *Hesperia* 80 (2011) 71-156 (Moodle).

Tuesday, November 14th

**15. Areopagos, Hill of the Muses, Philopappos monument.**  
Meet: Corner of Dionysiou Areopagitou and Apostolou Pavlou.  
Class reading: Sections in Travlos (1971) on Areopagos, Philopappos.

Thursday, November 16th

**16. Roman Athens: The Roman Agora, Library of Hadrian, Arch of Hadrian, Olympieion.**  
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

Tuesday, November 21st

**17. 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).

Tuesday, November 28th

## 18. Athens after Antiquity

Meet: Monastiraki Square.

Class reading: Camp (2001) 239-244.

## 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.
- Stampolidis, 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.