ARCH 443 Aegean Art & Architecture

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Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-4:00pm (and by appointment)

Course Description: Aegean Art & Architecture (3-0). Credit 3. Art and architecture of the prehistoric Aegean, ca. 6000-1100 BCE; focus on the built environment, material culture, and visual arts of early civilizations in the Aegean basin; evidence for regional and vernacular architectural traditions; expressions of power, ideology, and social identity through monumental architecture and elite arts of Minoan Crete and Mycenaean Greece.

Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification or approval of degree coordinator or instructor.

Class Meetings: Class will meet Tuesday and Thursday from 12:45 pm to 02:00 pm in ARCC 111. All lectures and exams will take place in this room.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
- visually recognize, analyze, and interpret the art and architectural styles and design considerations of the ancient Aegean cultures, their relationship to ancient Mesopotamia, the Levant, Anatolia, and Egypt, and their legacy for later European (Greek) culture.
- compare and contrast the parallel and divergent artistic and architectural canons and traditions of eastern Mediterranean cultures.
- distinguish the formal conventions and construction techniques of ancient Aegean art & architecture in terms of their climatic, ecological, technological, socioeconomic and cultural factors.
- understand and communicate the importance of cultural heritage and its contribution to social memory, identity, adaptive reuse, and historic preservation.
- apply critical thinking to theories in the history of art and architecture.

Required Readings: There are two required textbooks for this class:
- J. McEuen, Architecture of Minoan Crete: Constructing Identity in the Aegean Bronze Age (University of Texas Press 2010).
Other readings will be available on eLearning (eLearning.tamu.edu) or via JSTOR or other electronic source (through the Evans Library).

Electronic Resources: Your instructor will send you important course information on email to your NEO accounts at Texas A&M. It is your responsibility to check this account regularly and set up forwarding if you prefer to use another email service. We will use eLearning (http://elearning.tamu.edu) to post important course information such as the syllabus, announcements, study guides, and grades, as well as links to other helpful resources. Please log in as soon as possible. If you have technical difficulties, please contact the Help Desk directly at 845-8300.

Basis for Evaluation (Grading Policies): Your grade in ARCH 443 will be earned according to the criteria described below:

Article reviews/papers: Students will write three papers during the semester. For these assignments, you will be asked to read one or more journal articles and respond to specific questions relating to Aegean art & architecture in light of current research and the themes developed in this class. For each response paper, you will be given the
assignment in advance and asked to bring your written response (ca. 3-4 pages) to class. Students will discuss their papers and share their perspectives first in small teams, and then with the class as a whole.

**Exams:** There will be 2 exams administered in class and one cumulative final exam. These exams may include slide identification of the monuments studied in class, short answer and essay questions. The exams will require you to analyze architectural and artistic artifacts, evaluate data, synthesize current scholarly literature and interpretations, and apply what you have learned to new or previously unseen case studies. A study guide will be provided a week before each exam.

**Significant Dates:**

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<tr>
<th>Week 3, Thursday:</th>
<th>Response Paper #1</th>
<th>15% of final grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5, Tuesday:</td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>15% of final grade</td>
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<td>Week 7, Thursday:</td>
<td>Response Paper #2</td>
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<td>Week 10, Tuesday:</td>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>15% of final grade</td>
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<td>Week 12, Thursday:</td>
<td>Response Paper #3</td>
<td>15% of final grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA:</td>
<td>Exam#3 (Final)</td>
<td>25% of final grade</td>
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Your grade in this class is earned, not awarded. Your grade will be calculated on the basis of three papers, and three exams. Your grades will be posted on eLearning after each exercise. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following guideline: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 and below. I will consider rounding up percentages of x9.5 and higher only if there is a consistent trend of improvement throughout the course.

**Attendance:** Texas A&M views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend all classes and to complete all assignments. Material presented in lecture and class discussion may expand upon points only briefly considered in the required text.

**Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days:** Texas House Bill 256 (effective 9/1/03) states “An institution of higher education shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable amount of time after the absence.”

**Excused Absences from Class and Make-up Guidelines:** Rules concerning excused absences may be found at [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07). “Except in the case of the observance of a religious holiday, to be excused the student must notify his or her instructor in writing (acknowledged e-mail message is acceptable) prior to the date of absence if such notification is feasible. In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. accident, or emergency) the student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class. Accommodations sought for absences due to the observance of a religious holiday can be sought either prior or after the absence, but not later than two working days after the absence.”

“If needed, the student must provide additional documentation substantiating the reason for the absence, that is satisfactory to the instructor, within one week of the last date of the absence”.

“If the absence is excused, the instructor must either provide the student an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the final grade or provide a satisfactory alternative by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor. If an instructor has a regularly scheduled make up exam, students are expected to attend unless they have a university approved excuse. The make-up work must be completed in a timeframe not to exceed 30 calendar days from the last day of the initial absence.”

**Late Work Policy and Make-up Guidelines for Non-excused Absences:** See Student Rule 7 Section 4 ([http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07)). “The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence.”

**Makeup Exams:** Make-up exams for non-excused absences (including over-sleeping, personal travel, etc.) will be given at the discretion of the instructor. In keeping with University policy for excused absences, the student should notify the instructor in writing prior to the exam, if possible, and by the end of the second working day after the exam. If a student is allowed a make-up for an unexcused absence, the make-up must be completed within 1 week of the regularly scheduled test and a 10% penalty will be assessed. After one week a grade of “0” will be assigned.
Late Paper Assignments: Non-excused late paper assignments will be accepted for a period of three days after the due date and will be assessed a 10% penalty. After three days, a grade of “0” will be assigned.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

Student Conduct
Academic Integrity: “The Aggie Honor Code is as follows: “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student automatically assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not excuse any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/

Academic integrity is encouraged in keeping with Texas A&M University policies. On each exam or assignment, you will be asked to sign the following pledge: “On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given or received unauthorized aid on this academic work.” Students cheating, illicitly obtaining/ providing answers on an exam, or plagiarizing a paper will receive at a grade “0” for the assignment and possibly a grade of “F” for the entire course. All suspected violations will be reported to the Honor Council to determine whether further sanctions are necessary.

Classroom Behavior: Texas A&M University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both instructors and students. The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. Classroom behavior that seriously interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (2) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in disruptive classroom behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. For additional information please visit: http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule21.htm

Schedule of Lectures, Reading Assignments, and Exams

Week 1: Discovering the Aegean World: Natural, Built and “Virtual” Environments of Prehistoric Greece
Read:
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 1, pp. 1-24.
- McEnroe, Ch. 1, pp. 3-7.

Week 2: Architecture & Social Identity in Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Greece
Read:
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 2, pp. 33-47, 53-57.
- McEnroe, Ch. 2, pp. 10-18.

Week 3: Art & Society in the Early Bronze Age Cyclades
Thursday: First Article Review: Cycladic Figurines
Read:
Week 4: The Prepalatial Period in Crete: Expressions of Local, Regional, and Ethnic Identities
Read:
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 2, pp. 48-52, 57-61.
- McEnroe, Ch. 3, pp. 19-30.
- McEnroe, Ch. 4, pp. 31-43.

Week 5: The First Palaces on Crete and the Construction of Power
Tuesday: Test 1
Read (for Thursday, Feb 16):
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 3, pp. 63-87.
- McEnroe, Ch. 5, pp. 45-56; Ch. 6, pp. 57-67.

Week 6: The Second Palace Period on Crete and the Reconstruction of Minoan Identity
Read:
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 4, pp. 89-109, 165-174.
- McEnroe, Ch. 7, pp. 69-79; Ch. 8, pp. 81-92.

Week 7: Minoan Art & Religion
Thursday: Second Article Review: Minoan Art & Religion
Read:

Week 8: Houses and Towns on Crete and Thera in the Neopalatial Period
Read:
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 4, pp. 110-122.
- McEnroe, Ch. 9, pp. 93-116.

Week 9: Buildings, Frescoes, and the Language of Power in Final Palatial Crete
Read:
- McEnroe, Ch. 10, pp. 117-132

Week 10: Trade and Cultural Exchange in the Eastern Mediterranean: The Uluburun Shipwreck
Tuesday: Test 2
Read:
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 6, pp. 193-200.

Week 11: Shaft Graves, Tholoi, and Chamber Tombs: Funerary Architecture in the Mycenaean Greek World
Read:
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 4, pp. 148-152, 174-176.

Week 12: Mycenaean Domination and the Minoan Tradition
Thursday: Third Article Review: Symbols of Power in Mycenaean Funerary Art
Read:
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 5, pp. 155-190.

**Week 13: Buildings, Frescoes, and the Language of Power in Mycenaean Greece**

**Read:**
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 5, pp. 182-190.

**Week 14: Disruptions, (Dis)Continuities, and the Bronze Age Legacy**

**Read:**
- Preziosi & Hitchcock, Ch. 6, pp. 193-219.
- McEnroe, Ch. 12, pp. 147-159, 161-162.

**Course Summary & Review**

**FINAL EXAM (as scheduled by Registrar)**