

**ART 220: Classical Archaeology**

Spring 2011

Clough Hall 417

TTh 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Prof. Francesca Tronchin

Email: tronchinf@rhodes.edu

Office: Clough Hall 412

Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 – 11:00  
am, or by appointment

This course will address the material remains of the ancient Mediterranean, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Aegean, Greece, Etruria, and Rome. By examining the history of the rediscovery of the classical world we will come to understand “How do we know what we know about antiquity?” through the personalities and methodologies of more than two centuries of archaeological practice.

We will also study ethical and legal questions related to classical archaeology and the broader question of “Who owns the past?” by looking into case studies of looting, theft, and museological issues.

In this course, students will:

- learn to recognize the physical remains (from pottery to major buildings) of these significant ancient civilizations.
- examine the impact of modern history and culture on the study and interpretation of the ancient past.
- investigate the major sources of information about the classical world.
- learn the most significant approaches to archaeological survey, excavation, and preservation of ancient sites and artifacts.
- study the ways in which new technology can assist in archaeology.
- learn the vocabulary associated with the practice of archaeology and the study of classical artifacts and monuments.
- come to understand why studying the past is important in our modern, global society.

**TEXTBOOKS and other resources**

Biers, *Art, Artefacts, and Chronology in Classical Archaeology* (Routledge, 1992).

Dyson, *In Pursuit of Ancient Past* (Yale, 2006).

Gates, *Ancient Cities* (Routledge, 2003).

Additional readings will be provided to the students in PDF format through the course folder. Powerpoints from class presentations will also be made available through the folder.

### **Course requirements and grading**

The requirements of this course are regular, punctual attendance, regular participation in class discussion, the completion of each day's reading assignment prior to the class meeting, and the completion of all assignments and exams by the date indicated here on the syllabus.

There will be **two exams**—one during the term and one during the final exam period (see course schedule below for dates and times). The exams will be comprised of slide identification and discussion as well as short essays. *The exams are closed-book and are not cumulative* (i.e., the final covers the material from the class after the midterm to the last day of class). More details about the exams will be presented in class.

The exam material comes from class lectures, class discussion, and reading assignments.

There will be **two short** (5-10 minute) **quizzes** given in class regarding geography and archaeological vocabulary. A list of terms will be provided well before the dates of the quizzes.

All students will complete a **research paper** regarding one of the case studies we will cover during our section in this course on archaeological ethics, the art market, collectors and museums, the illicit trade in antiquities, and the looting of archaeological sites. The paper will be about 1000-1500 words and is due on **Thursday, April 28**. Further details about the paper assignment will be given out well before the due date.

Students will team up to lead a **discussion** of a reading assignment during the last three weeks of the semester. These readings will also relate to our studies of archaeology, museums, and the art market.

Each group of students will meet with Dr. Tronchin during office hours (or other scheduled appointment) to discuss the reading and prepare a set of 4-5 questions to be shared with the rest of the students before the class meeting.

The students will then deliver a group presentation on the reading, outlining the salient points of the article/book chapter and the controversy at large. All students should be prepared to answer questions on the reading assignment during the discussion.

The content of the discussions and readings will be included in the final exam.

### **Evaluation/Basis of grading**

15%	Quizzes
25%	Research paper
20%	Discussion leading & Participation
20%	Midterm Exam
20%	Final exam

If at any point in the semester you are concerned about your grade, contact Professor Tronchin to receive an estimated evaluation of your standing.

### **Attendance policy, make-up exams, and extensions**

Class attendance is *essential* for your understanding of the material. Monuments and concepts not pictured or discussed in the readings will frequently be addressed in class, so presence in lecture will be beneficial to your grade. Attendance will be taken on a regular basis, especially at the beginning of the semester so that Professor Tronchin can get to know you.

Make-up exams are only allowed *under compelling circumstances* (e.g., a death in the family) or in the case of illness. In the event of the latter, excused absences will be granted only with a physician's note. Please plan your semester wisely as make-up exams will not be granted for students leaving early for vacations or traveling for weddings, for example.

Extensions for written assignments will only be granted under compelling circumstances and *before* the due date.

Students with extracurricular activities (athletics, mock trial, etc.) that will require them to miss one or more classes during the semester should speak to Prof. Tronchin before anticipated absences.

### **Academic Integrity and the Honor Code**

All work for this course is to be completed in accordance with the Rhodes College Honor Code. Plagiarism in particular will not be tolerated. If you have questions about plagiarism, please speak to Prof. Tronchin.

### **Courtesy policies**

To avoid disturbing your classmates and instructor, please observe the following policies:

- Arrive to class on time.
- Please set all cell phones and other communication devices to a silent mode. Any student responding to a cell phone call while in class will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to return to that class meeting. No texting during class.; it is distracting to both your professor and your fellow students.
- Using laptop computers is permitted in class. Using such a computer for IMing, gaming, Facebook, etc. is not allowed.
- Drinking (water, coffee) is permitted in class; eating is not.
- Be respectful of other points of view expressed by your fellow classmates.
- Be present—in both mind & body—at class meetings. You will get a much better rest in a bed than at your desk during a lecture. In other words: no sleeping in class.
- A good grade in this course comes from hard work, not from just showing up.

**Suggestions for success** in this course (and others)

- Keep up with reading assignments.
- Spend time looking at the artworks included in the reading assignments and review material on a weekly basis. In other words: don't plan to cram the night before the exam.
- Begin written assignments early.
- Exchange email addresses or phone numbers with a few classmates; arrange a study group.
- Take advantage of instructor's office hours, yet don't expect a personalized re-cap of lectures.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions or clarify points during class meetings.
- Observe e-mail etiquette in your messages to your professor. Treat messages as formal letters and proofread them before sending.

**Special Needs**

If a student has a documented disability and wishes to receive academic accommodations, the student should first contact the Office of Student Disability Services (x3994) and then provide the professor with an accommodation form *as soon as possible*.

Course schedule (subject to change)

Tuesday	Thursday
	<b>13 January</b> <b>Introduction to course</b>  Biers, Chapter 1 Dyson, Chapter 1
<b>18 January</b> <b>Introduction to the history of archaeology</b>  Dyson, Chapter 2	<b>20 January</b> <b>The Ancient Near East I: Sumerians, Akkadians, and Babylonians</b>  Gates, Chapters 2-3
<b>25 January</b> <b>The Ancient Near East II: Assyrians and Persians</b>  Gates, Chapter 10 MAP QUIZ	<b>27 January</b> <b>Art and Archaeology of Egypt I</b>  Gates, Chapter 5
<b>1 February</b> <b>Major finds, major personalities in Egyptian archaeology</b>	<b>3 February</b> <b>Art and Archaeology of Egypt II</b>  Gates, Chapter 6
<b>8 February</b> <b>Heinrich Schliemann, Sir Arthur Evans: The Discovery and Invention of the Aegean Bronze Age</b>	<b>10 February</b> <b>The Aegean Bronze Age</b>  Gates, Chapter 7
<b>15 February</b> <b>The Opening of Greece</b>  Dyson, Chapter 3	<b>17 February</b> <b>Archaeology of Early Greece, Archaic Greece</b>  Gates, Chapters 11-13
<b>22 February</b> <b>Classical Greece</b>  Gates, Chapters 14-16	<b>24 February</b> <b>Hellenistic Greece</b>  Gates, Chapter 17
<b>1 March</b> <b>The Etruscans</b>  Gates, Chapter 18	<b>3 March</b>  <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
<b>8 March</b> <b>Art and Archaeology of Early &amp; Republican Rome</b>  Gates, Chapter 19	<b>10 March</b> <b>Art and Archaeology of the Early Roman Empire</b>  Gates, Chapter 20

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>15 March</b> <b>Spring Break!</b>	<b>17 March</b> <b>Spring Break!</b>
<b>22 March</b> <b>Pompeii (and its problems)</b>  Gates, Chapter 21	<b>24 March</b> <b>Art and Archaeology of the High Roman Empire</b>  Gates, Chapter 22
<b>29 March</b> <b>Art and Archaeology of the Late Roman Empire</b>  Gates, Chapter 24	<b>31 March</b> <b>Chronology and methods for dating archaeological material</b>  Biers, Chapters 2-3
<b>5 April</b> <b>Chronology and methods for dating archaeological material</b>  Biers, Chapter 4	<b>7 April</b> <b>Archaeology and Museums</b>  Dyson, Chapter 5
<b>12 April</b> <b>Archaeology, ethics, and the law</b>  Renfrew, Chapters 1-3 VOCABULARY QUIZ	<b>14 April</b> <b>Discussion: Context and meaning in art and archaeology</b>  Scott, "Art and the Archaeologist"
<b>19 April</b> <b>Discussion: The looting of the Baghdad Museum; War and archaeology in Iraq</b>  Rothfield, "A Punctual Disaster" Pollock, "Archaeology Goes to War at the Newsstand"	<b>22 April</b> <b>Easter Recess</b>
<b>26 April</b> <b>Discussion: The Parthenon, the Elgin Marbles, and the British Museum</b>  Reading TBA	<b>28 April</b> <b>Discussion: The Medici Conspiracy</b>  Watson & Todeschini, Chapters 8-9 PAPERS DUE
<b>WEDNESDAY, 4 MAY, 1 PM</b> <b>FINAL EXAM</b>	