



GREEK ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Instructor: **Prof. Christofilis Maggidis**

November 2022



Class time: TBA

Format: online lectures (synchronous Zoom lectures)

Virtual office hours: TBA

E-mail: maggidischris@gmail.com

Webpage: <http://mycenaeanfoundation.com/president>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This online course is a general introduction to the art and archaeology of ancient Greece from ca. 2000 BC to 31 BC, including protohistoric Aegean civilizations (Minoan and Mycenaean), Greece in the Early Iron Age, Archaic and Classical Greece, and the Hellenistic world. We will survey ancient Greek architecture (temple, secular, funerary), sculpture, vase painting, monumental painting, metalwork, and minor arts of these periods produced both on mainland Greece and in the Greek colonies throughout the Mediterranean (Asia Minor, Pontus, Cyprus, Syria/Levant, Egypt, South Italy and Sicily). We will discuss typological, iconographical, stylistic, and technical aspects and developments, and will identify styles, schools, and regional trends. Furthermore, we will contextualize ancient Greek art in its historical and cultural framework by addressing socio-economic patterns, political organization, religion, and writing. Finally, we will evaluate the ancient Greek legacy and contribution to ‘western’ art and civilization. Classwork will be held via synchronous Zoom sessions, complemented with asynchronous Zoom sessions filmed at archaeological sites and museums, online video documentaries, and guest lectures.

CLASS FORMAT & SCHEDULE

- November 1 – 30, 2022 (4-5 contact hours weekly; 16-20 contact hours totally)
- synchronous Zoom sessions: lectures with slideshows (three 80-min-sessions per week, days/times TBA, recorded to be available for post viewing)
- complementary asynchronous zoom sessions recorded at archaeological sites and museums
- supplementary online video-documentaries (weekly)

OBJECTIVES:

- To study the conquests and evolution of ancient Greek art with special emphasis on famous ancient Greek masters and masterpieces; evaluate the artistic heritage and contribution of ancient Greece to ‘western’ art and civilization.
- To acquaint the students with the history, framework, recent discoveries and tantalizing problems of Greek archaeology and consider the artwork of ancient Greece in the light of its diverse and ever-changing cultural, political, and socio-economic context.
- To examine, analyze, and review archaeological evidence with an interdisciplinary approach and critical insight.

COURSE SYNOPSIS/TOPICS:

- **Section 1. Introduction to classical archaeology:** preliminary remarks and definition, aims, principles, methodology and terminology. ‘Why’ and ‘How’ – major themes in Greek archaeology. ‘When’ and ‘where’ – chronology, landscape, climate, environment, political geography.
- **Section 2.** The Prehistoric Aegean origins: Minoan Crete in the Palatial periods (2nd millennium BC).
- **Section 3.** The Mycenaeans: the first Greek civilization in the Late Bronze Age (1600-1100 BC).
- **Section 4.** Greece in the Early Iron Age: the transitional ‘Dark Ages’ (Submycenaean and Protogeometric period) (11th/10th century BC) and the cultural renaissance of Greece in the Geometric period (9th/8th century BC).
- **Section 5.** Early Greece: ‘Daedalic’ art and the acculturation of foreign influences in the Orientalizing period (7th century BC).
- **Sections 6-7.** Archaic Greek art and architecture (6th century BC): the formative period
- **Sections 8-10.** Classical Greek art and architecture (5th/4th century BC)
- **Sections 11.** Greek art and architecture in the Hellenistic world (late 4th-1st century BC)
- **Section 12.** Conclusions: assessment of the evolution, regional variation, chronological development, and geographical distribution of ancient Greek art and architecture; evaluation of the Greek legacy to ‘western’ art and civilization.



The full **syllabus** which includes finalized session dates/times, full bibliography (textbooks and supplementary readings), and list of online resources will be available to the participants upon enrollment.