

The Greek Bronze Age and the World of Homer: GRS 361

Spring 2010: Monday and Thursday, 1-2:20, COR B135

Professor Brendan Burke

Tel: 721-8522

Email: bburke@uvic.ca

Office hours: Monday 2:30-3:30, Wednesday 11:30-12:30, or by appointment

Office: Clearihue B424, Department of Greek and Roman Studies

Course description: This course will cover material culture from the eastern Mediterranean, beginning with the Neolithic period and continuing through the end of the Bronze Age. Much attention will be given to the Minoans on Crete and the Mycenaean Greeks, but we will also cover topics such as the Cyclades and the volcanic eruption of Thera, Troy and the Trojan War, and the Hittite Kingdom in central Anatolia.

Required texts:

The Cambridge Companion to the Aegean Bronze Age, Cynthia Shelmerdine (ed.)

Paperback: 524 pages; ISBN-13: 978-0521891271

Mycenaean Citadels c. 1350-1200 BC N. Fields; Paperback: 64 pages; ISBN-13: 978-1841767628

Optional texts and resources:

Jerry Rutter, *Aegean Bronze Age* - http://devlab.cs.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age

Michael Wood, *In Search of the Trojan War* (UC Berkeley Press 1996)

J. Chadwick, *The Mycenaean World* (Cambridge 1976)

W. Taylour, *The Mycenaeans* (Thames and Hudson 1983)

E. Vermeule *Greece in the Bronze Age* (Chicago 1964)

Aegaeum series - McPherson call no. DF220 A34

**Many texts available on reserve in McPherson

Technology: Blackboard site: <http://blackboard.uvic.ca>. This site will be updated frequently with lecture outlines and images for review. Please contact me or the people at Blackboard if you are having problems viewing the course web page. You should also make use of this valuable website: http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons

Evaluation: The course requires attendance at two illustrated slide lectures each week. We will focus on specific monuments and objects, placing them in their temporal and cultural context. Lectures will be based somewhat on the course text books, but there will be material covered in class that is NOT included in the texts. For this reason, **attendance** at each class meeting is very important for success in the course. You will be responsible for (*i.e.*, examined on) some material not included in the texts but presented in the weekly lectures.

Grading: You must complete all requirements for the course in order to receive a passing grade.

Percentage grades are assigned to the examinations and research paper. The following table shows the equivalencies used when converting numerical scores to letter grades. Grade point values and a general description of each grade are given. These grades correspond to the grading schema in the University of Victoria calendar.

%	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
95-100	A+	9	Exceptional, outstanding, excellent performance, normally achieved by a minority of the students. These grades indicate a student who is self-motivated, exceeds expectations, and has an insightful grasp of general concepts and specific detail.
90-94	A	8	
85-89	A-	7	
80-84	B+	6	Very good, good performance, normally achieved by most students. These grades indicate a good grasp of general concepts and specific detail or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
75-79	B	5	
70-74	B-	4	
65-69	C+	3	Satisfactory performance. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of general concepts and specific detail.
60-64	C	2	
55-59	D	1	Marginal performance. A student receives this grade when they demonstrate only a superficial grasp of general concepts and specific details.
< 54	F	0	Unsatisfactory performance.

Students will be evaluated on one map quiz – (10%); one midterm - (20%), one research paper (35%), participation in formal class discussions (20%); and an in-class final exam April 8 (15%). In consultation with the students I will select SIX groups of about 10 students each to research a specific problem in Greek prehistory. You should work together for the discussion presentation, but your paper will be based on independent research. Dates for exams and papers are non-negotiable in fairness to all.

Research paper/In Class Discussion Topics: The term paper (approx. 7-9 pages, excluding bibliography) will focus on a topic related to your in class discussion. This may be modified somewhat in consultation with me. The paper is due one week AFTER your presentation.

These discussions topics are – let me know by January 11 which group you would like to join:

Discussion #1: ‘Minoan civilization’ or ‘Minoan fantasy’? (January 28, 2010)

Discussion #2: Eruption of Akrotiri - 1628 BC or 1450 BC? (February 25, 2010)

Discussion #3: Mycenaean Empire or Mycenaean Kingdoms? (March 4, 2010)

Discussion #4: Archaeology of Cult (March 11, 2010)

Discussion #5: Trojan War - Fact or Fiction? (March 25, 2010)

Discussion #6: End of the Bronze Age - External or Internal Causes? (April 1, 2010)

LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the UVic guidelines for **plagiarism** in the University calendar. A more detailed information sheet on the paper will be given in class and put on the Blackboard page.

SYLLABUS:

Week 1: January 4, 7

Introduction and course overview

In Search of the Trojan War (DVD)

Reading: Shelmerdine 1-18.

Week 2: January 11, 14

Neolithic and EBA Mainland

Reading: Pullen 19-46

Neolithic and EBA Cyclades

Reading: Broodbank 47-96

Week 3: January 18, 21

EBA Crete and Protopalatial

Reading: Wilson 77-104

Neopalatial Crete

Reading: Younger and Rehak 140-185

Week 4: January 25, 28

Reading: http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/11.html

Discussion #1: Minoan palace origins - local or foreign origins?

Week 5: February 1, 4

*****February 1 - MAP QUIZ*****

Knossos, Mallia, Phaistos

Reading: http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/12.html

Minoan religion, administration, and destructions

Reading: http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/15.html

Week 6: February 8

*****Monday February 8, 2010 - Midterm*****

February 11: Crete and the Aegean islands – Akrotiri, Ayia Irini

Reading: Davis 186-208;

http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/17.html

Week 7: February 15, 18 READING BREAK

Week 8: February 22, 25

The Middle Bronze Age and Early Mycenaean

Discussion #2: Eruption of Akrotiri - 1628 BC or 1450 BC?

Reading: Fields 4-18; Wright 230-257; [http://projectsx](http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/16.htm)

[dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/16.htm](http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/16.htm)

Week 9: March 1, 4

Mycenaean Architecture and Engineering - Mycenae and Tiryns

Reading: Field 19-37;

http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/19.htm

Gla, Orchomenos, Thebes; Pylos; Athens

Reading: Fields 37-52; Shelmerdin and Bennet 289-309;

http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/20.htm

Discussion #3: Mycenaean Empire or separate Kingdoms?

Week 10: March 8, 11

Mycenaean Death; Bronze Age Aegean Religion

Reading: Palaima 342-362;

http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/26.html

Discussion #4: Archaeology of Cult

Week 11: March 15, 18

Reading: Fields 53-59; Cavanagh 327-341.

Cape Gelidonya Shipwreck and the Ulu Burun Shipwreck

Reading: http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/22.html

Week 12: March 22, 25

Historicity and Myth: Trojans, Hittites

Reading: Mee 362-386;

http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/23.html

Discussion #5: Trojan War - Fact or Fiction?

Week 13: March 29, April 1

The End of the Bronze Age - Palatial Destructions

Reading: http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/28.html

Decline and Afterlife

Reading: Thucydides, I.2-20 (The Archaeology); Deger-Jalkotzy 387-414

Discussion #6: End of the Bronze Age - Foreign or Domestic Causes?

Week 14: April 5, 8

REVIEW

In class FINAL EXAM – Thursday, April 8, 2010