

NOTE: This is a former syllabus. The new syllabus will be similar but not the same.

CLST 313/613 Landscapes and Seascapes of the Ancient Mediterranean
Spring 2021 • Thursday 1–4 PM
T. Tartaron

The Mediterranean environment is both diverse and unique, and nurtured numerous complex societies along its shores in antiquity. This seminar offers a primer on theoretical and methodological approaches to studying landscapes and seascapes of the Mediterranean from the Bronze Age to the early modern era, at scales from local to international and on land and underwater. Concepts from processual, post-processual, and current archaeologies will be considered, and field techniques including excavation and surface survey, remote sensing and geophysics, GIS modeling, and ethnography/ethnoarchaeology are examined. Course content and discussion focus on case studies that illustrate how these tools are used to reconstruct the appearance and resources of the natural environment; overland and maritime routes; settlement location, size, function, and demography; social and economic networks; and agricultural, pastoral, and nomadic lifeways. Seminar participants will develop case studies of their own geographical and chronological interest.

Schedule of Topics

1/21: Introduction

1/28: Landscape concepts and definitions

2/4: Phenomenology

2/11: Paleoenvironmental reconstruction

2/18: Networks: landscapes of terrestrial movement and interaction

2/25: Networks: maritime cultural landscapes and seascapes

3/4: Networks: case studies

Initial proposal for term paper due.

3/11: No meeting (Spring Break)

3/18: Surface survey, GIS and other techniques

3/25: Texts and landscapes; ethnoarchaeology
Detailed outline and bibliography for term paper due.

4/1: Rural landscapes: agricultural, pastoral, wilderness

4/8: Sacred landscapes and landscapes of memory

4/15: Presentations 1

4/22: Presentations 2

4/29: Concluding discussion
Final paper due Friday, May 7.

Participant responsibilities

The main responsibilities are:

- (1) do weekly readings and participate in seminar discussions;
- (2) write response papers (most weeks);
- (3) grad students to meet with me for one hour every other week for discussion;
- (4) term paper on a project of your interest, agreed with me. As you develop the topic, there are two "milestones": an initial proposal for the term paper is due on March 4; and on March 25 a detailed outline and bibliography are due. The paper due date is May 7.
- (5) an oral presentation on either April 15 or April 22. It makes sense that your presentation would be on your term project, though it is not absolutely required.

Details on these responsibilities will be communicated during the semester.