

ARTH 228. GREEK ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

Spring 2025, Monday – Wednesday 12-13:30

Prof. Mantha Zarmakoupi



As the locus of classical architecture and urbanism, the Greek world occupies an important place in the history of architecture and urbanism. This course explores the various periods and different moments of architectural creation during the first two millennia, from the palace complexes of Minoan Crete to the cities of the Hellenistic world (1600-100 BCE), and tackles major concepts, theories and practices of architectural and urban design. In studying a variety of sources – both ancient and modern – lectures examine concepts of organizing space, issues of structure, materials, decoration and proportion. The purpose of the course is to shed light on Greek architectural and urban projects within their social, political, religious, and physical contexts.

The fields of study of classical architecture and urbanism has developed as an expression of colonialism and nationalism, and this course exposes takes an active role in current discussions in decolonizing the status of “the Classics” or “the classical” and shedding light on classicizing approaches in the study of ancient architecture.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students are expected to be able to:

- Identify and analyze the Greek architectural and urban developments
- Be familiar with the wide range of new architectural forms and technological innovations that developed and spread in the ancient Greek world
- Be able to analyze concepts of organizing space, issues of structure, materials, decoration and proportion, the role of architecture in ancient Greek society

OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course students should have developed:

- Skills for the analysis and interpretation of Greek architecture and urbanism.
- Ability to evaluate visual, material and textual evidence in relation to the study of Greek architecture and urbanism.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Participation	20%
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Active class participation

Presentation in Week 9	20%
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At mid-term, each student will be responsible for a presentation of 10 min.

Final Project / Paper	40%
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For the final, students will be expected to produce a project – for some, this might be a 3D reconstruction project accompanied by an annotation 6-page paper; for others, a 10-page double-spaced research paper.

Take home exam	
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Take-home exam due on May 13	20%
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Reference books

- Barbara A. Barletta, *The origins of the Greek architectural orders* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).
- William Bell Dinsmoor, *The architecture of ancient Greece: An account of its historic development* (London: Batsford, 1950).
- Helmut Berve and Gottfried Gruben, *Greek temples, theatres, and shrines* (New York, H.N. Abrams, 1963).
- J. J. Coulton, *Ancient Greek architects at work: Problems of structure and design* (Oxford: Oxbow Books, 1977).
- A. H. M. Jones, *The Greek city: from Alexander to Justinian* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1940).
- Manolis Korres et al., *The Parthenon. Architecture and Conservation*, exhibition catalogue (Athens: Melissa, 1996).
- A. W. Laurence, *Greek architecture*, revised by R. A. Tomlinson, fifth edition, Pelican History of Art (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1996).
- Carmelo G. Malacrino, *Constructing the Ancient world: Architectural techniques of the Greeks and Romans* (Los Angeles: Getty, 2010).
- Clemente Marconi, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Art and Architecture* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).
- Margaret M. Miles, *A Companion to Greek Architecture* (Malden MA and Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2016).
- Lisa C. Nevett, *House and society in the ancient Greek world*, New Studies in Archaeology (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).
- E. J. Owens, *The city in the Greek and Roman world* (London: Routledge, 1991).
- William H. Plommer, *Ancient and Classical Architecture*, History of architectural development 1 (London: Longmans, Green and co, 1956).
- Robert L. Scranton, *Greek architecture*, The great ages of world architecture (New York: Braziller, 1985).
- Elena Walter-Karydi, *The Greek house: The rise of noble houses in late Classical Greece* (Athens: The Archaeological Society of Athens, 1998).
- Mark Wilson Jones, *Origins of Classical architecture* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2014).
- Frederick E. Winter, *Studies in Hellenistic architecture*, Phoenix Supplementary Volume 42 (Toronto, Buffalo and London: Toronto University Press, 2006).
- R. E. Wycherley, *How the Greeks built cities: The relationship of architecture and town planning to everyday life in ancient Greece*, second edition (New York and London: Norton & Company, 1962).

Ancient Sources

- J. J. Pollitt, *The art of ancient Greece: Sources and Documents*, second edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990).
- Ingrid D. Rowland and Thomas Noble Howe, eds., *Vitruvius: Ten books on Architecture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).