

ARTH 3280. The Parthenon: The many lives of a monument

Spring 2025, Monday 5:15-8:15 p.m.

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(Source: Mantha Zarmakoupi)

This seminar focuses on the Parthenon, the centerpiece of Pericles' building programme on the Athenian Acropolis, to address its design and history, its aftermath as a ruin, its *anastylosis* as a monument as well as its meaning as national and cultural symbol in the modern period. The Parthenon is arguably a monument of perfection – the culmination of the search for the ideal proportions in Doric temple design in the 5th century BCE – and the course will analyze its architecture to shed light on its design and construction processes, including its architectural refinements. The course will also address the history of the building as a ruin and the important work of its restoration as a monument after the 19th century, thereby tackling the aesthetics of “purity” intertwined in the planning of interventions on ancient ruins and elucidating the ways in which such interventions are entwined with national and supranational debates about cultural identity in the discourses of modernity. Travel to Greece will include a week in Athens to study the Parthenon up close, as well as to observe the current work of the Acropolis Restoration Service, whose recent work has shed light on the design and construction of the monument.

Requirements:

Active class participation, two presentations and two papers.

Attendance

- attendance and participation 20%

Presentation

- Presentation of a monument during site visits in Athens 5%
- Presentation of 15 mins (Weeks 15 and 16) 15%

Papers

- 5-page double-spaced paper due by March 3 20%
- 12-page double-spaced paper due by May 8 40%

Readings:

Required and recommended readings for each class are listed below. Required readings are available on Canvas.

Reference books:

- C. Bouras, *Byzantine Athens, 10th-12th centuries* (Athens: Routledge, 2017).
- C. Bouras, M. B. Sakellariou, K. S. Staikos, and E. Touloupa, eds., *Athens. From the Classical period to the present day (5th century B.C.-A.D. 2000)* (New Castle: Oak Knoll Press, 2003).
- M. Brouskari, *The monuments of the Acropolis* (Athens: Archaeological Receipts Fund, 2006).
- J. M. Camp, *The archaeology of Athens* (New Haven, CT: Yale Univ. Press, 2001).
- J. B. Connelly, *The Parthenon enigma* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014).
- A. Delivorrias – S. Mavrommatis, *The Parthenon frieze* (Athens: Melissa and Benaki Museum, 2004).
- S. Eleftheratou, ed. *Acropolis Museum Guide* (Athens: Acropolis Museum Editions, 2017).
- S. Eleftheratou, *Μουσείο Ακρόπολης: η ανασκαφή* [Acropolis Museum: The excavation] (Athens: Acropolis Museum Editions, 2019).
- V. Eleftheriou, *Chisel and Memory: The contribution of marble craftsmanship to the restoration of monuments* (Athens: Acropolis Restoration Service, 2019).
- M. Georgopoulou and K. Thanasakis, eds., *Ottoman Athens: Archaeology, Topography, History* (Athens: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 2019).
- E. Greco et al. *Topografia di Atene. Sviluppo urbano e monumenti dalle origini al III secolo d. C. I-II* (Athens and Paestum: Pandemos, 2010).
- C. Habicht, *Athens from Alexander to Antony* (Cambridge, MA: HUP, 1997).
- I. C. T. Hill, *The Ancient city of Athens. Its topography and monuments* (Cambridge, MA: HUP, 1953).
- J. M. Hurwit, *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles* (Cambridge: CUP, 2004).
- J. M. Hurwit, *The Athenian Acropolis: History, mythology, and archaeology from the Neolithic era to the present* (Cambridge: CUP, 1999).
- I. Jenkins, *The Parthenon sculptures* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press, 2007).

- A. Kaldellis, *The Christian Parthenon: Classicism and pilgrimage in Byzantine Athens* (Cambridge and New York: CUP, 2009).
- M. Korres, *The stones of the Parthenon* (Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Museum; Athens: Melissa Publishing House, 2000).
- M. Korres et al., *The Parthenon. Architecture and Conservation*, exhibition catalogue (Athens: Melissa, 1996).
- M. Korres, *ΧΑΡΤΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ* [Maps of Attica; based on the maps created by E. Curtius and J. A. Kaupert in the 19th century] (Athens: Melissa, 2008).
- M. Korres, *ΟΙ ΠΡΩΤΟΙ ΧΑΡΤΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΕΩΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ* (Athens: Attiki Odos and Melissa, 2010).
- E. Lebidaki, *The restoration of the monuments of the Athenian Acropolis* (Athens: Acropolis Restoration Service, 2010).
- T. Leslie Shear Jr., *Trophies of Victory: Public Building in Periklean Athens* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016).
- M. Miles, *Autopsy in Athens. Recent archaeological research on Athens and Attica* (Oxford: Oxbow, 2015).
- J. Neils, *The Parthenon frieze* (Cambridge and New York: CUP, 2001).
- J. Neils, ed. *The Parthenon: From antiquity to the present* (New York: CUP, 2005).
- J. Neils and D. K. Rogers, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Athens* (Cambridge: CUP, 2021).
- J. Neils and O. Palagia, eds., *From Kallias to Kritias: Art in Athens in the Second Half of the Fifth Century B.C.* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2022).
- L. Parlama and N. C. Stampolidis (eds.) *Athens. The city beneath the city. Antiquities from the Metropolitan Railway Excavations* (Athens: Harry N. Abrams, 2000).
- R. F. Rhodes, *Architecture and meaning on the Athenian Acropolis* (Cambridge: CUP, 1995).
- H. Rupprecht Goette, *Athens, Attica and the Megarid: An archaeological guide* (London and New York: Routledge, 1993).
- E. Sioumpara and O. Palagia, eds., *From Hippias to Kallias. Greek Art in Athens and Beyond from 527 to 449 B.C. Proceedings of the International Conference held at Acropolis Museum, May 19-20, 2017* (Athens: Acropolis Museum Press, 2019).
- A. Stewart, *Attalos, Athens, and the Akropolis: The Pergamene "Little Barbarians" and their Roman and Renaissance legacy* (Cambridge: CUP, 2004).
- P. Tournikiotis, ed., *The Parthenon and its impact in modern times* (Athens: Melissa, 1996).
- J. N. Travlos, *Pictorial Dictionary of Ancient Athens* (New York: Routledge, 1971).
- A. G. Vlachopoulos, *Athens and Attica: History and archaeology* (Athens: Melissa, 2017).
- P. Valavanis, *The Acropolis through its Museum* (Athens: Kapon Editions, 2014).
- S. Vlizos, *Athens during the Roman period: Recent discoveries, new evidence* (Athens: Benaki Museum, 2008).
- R. E. Wycherley, *The Stones of Athens* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1978).
- E. Yalouri, *The Acropolis. Global Fame, Local Claim* (Oxford and New York: Berg, 2001).

Course structure

Week 1 (January 15): **Athens and the Athenian Acropolis: Landscape of memory**
(MONDAY CLASSES TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY)

- Reading: - Joan Breton Connelly, *The Parthenon Enigma* (New York 2014), ch. 1, "The sacred rock: Myth and the power of place."
- Recommended Readings
- Jeffrey M. Hurwit, *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles* (Cambridge: CUP, 2004), ch. 1, "The rock and the goddess."
 - Jeffrey M. Hurwit, *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles* (Cambridge: CUP, 2004), ch. 2, "A landscape of memory: The past on the Athenian Acropolis," 49-86.
 - R. F. Rhodes, *Architecture and Meaning on the Athenian Acropolis* (Cambridge and New York: CUP, 1995), Introduction: A sense of place and the seeds of monumentality," 1-27.
 - P. Nora, P. "Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de mémoire," *Representations* 26 (1989), pp. 7-24.

Week 2 (**JANUARY 22**): **Building democracy in Late Archaic Athens**

NOTA BENE: NO CLASS ON MONDAY (MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY) BUT **WEDNESDAY AT 5:15PM**

- Reading: - Jessica Paga, *Building democracy in Late Archaic Athens* (Oxford: OUP, 2020), "The Akropolis: Monuments and Military Dominance."
- Recommended Readings
- J. Hurwit, *The Athenian Acropolis: History, Mythology, and Archaeology from the Neolithic era to the present* (Cambridge: CUP, 1999), ch. 6, "Tyranny, Democracy, and the Archaic Acropolis, 600-480."
 - J. Ober and C. Hedrick, eds. *The Birth of Democracy, Exhibition Catalogue, National Archives Rotunda, June 15 1993-January 2 1994* (Princeton, NJ: PUP, 1993).
 - J. Ober, *Democracy and Knowledge: Innovation and Learning in Classical Athens* (Princeton, NJ: PUP, 2008).

Week 3 (January 27): **Villa of the Papyri: The many lives of another monument**

Workshop on the History of Material Texts meeting in the 1978 Pavilion, in the Kislak Center

- Readings: - Mantha Zarmakoupi, "The Digital Model of the Villa of the Papyri: Issues of Reconstruction." In *The Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum: Archaeology, Reception, and Digital Reconstruction*, edited by M. Zarmakoupi, 181-193 (Berlin and New York: De Gruyter, 2010).
- Mantha Zarmakoupi, "The Grandeur that was the Villa dei Papiri." In *Buried by Vesuvius: The Villa dei Papiri at Herculaneum*, edited by Kenneth Lapatin, 47-55 (Los Angeles: The J. Paul Getty Museum, 2018).
 - David Sider, "The Books of the Villa of the Papyri." In *The Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum: Archaeology, Reception, and Digital Reconstruction*, edited by M. Zarmakoupi, 115-127 (Berlin and New York: De Gruyter, 2010).

Week 4 (February 3): **NO CLASS**

Week 5 (February 10): **The Athenian Acropolis: The “Periclean building programme”**

Reading: - Joan Breton Connelly, *The Parthenon Enigma* (New York 2014), ch. 3, “Periklean Pomp: The Parthenon moment and its passing.”

Recommended Readings

- T. Leslie Shear Jr., *Trophies of Victory: Public Building in Periklean Athens* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016), ch. 2, “The Development of the Periklean Program.”
- Jeffrey M. Hurwit, *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles* (Cambridge: CUP, 2004), 87-105.
- R. F. Rhodes, *Architecture and Meaning on the Athenian Acropolis* (Cambridge and New York: CUP, 1995), ch.2, “The Acropolis as Processional Architecture,” 42-65.

Announcing 5-page paper (‘First Paper’), due on March 3

Week 6 (February 17): **The architecture of the Parthenon: A monument of perfection?**

Readings: - Manolis Korres, “Refinements on refinements,” in L. Haselberger (ed.), *Appearance and Essence: Refinements of Classical Architecture: Curvature* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1999), 79-104.

- Lothar Haselberger, “Bending the truth. Curvature and other refinements of the Parthenon, in J. Neils, ed., *The Parthenon: From antiquity to the present* (New York: CUP, 2005), 100-176.

Recommended Readings

- Barbara Barletta, “The architecture and architects of the classical Parthenon,” in J. Neils, ed., *The Parthenon: From antiquity to the present* (New York: CUP, 2005), pp. 67-100.
- Manolis Korres, “The Architecture of the Parthenon,” in P. Tournikiotis, ed., *The Parthenon and its Impact in Modern Times* (Athens: Melissa, 1996), 55-66.

Week 7 (February 24): **The “Parthenon enigma”: The sculptural decoration of the monument**

Reading: - Jennifer Neils, “ ‘With noblest images on all sides’. The Ionic frieze of the Parthenon,” in J. Neils, ed., *The Parthenon: From antiquity to the present* (New York: CUP, 2005), 198-223.

Recommended Readings

- John Boardman, *The Parthenon and its Sculptures* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1985).
- Joan Breton Connelly, “Parthenon and Parthenoi: A Mythological Interpretation of the Parthenon Frieze,” *American Journal of Archeology* (1996), 53-80.

- Joan Breton Connelly, *The Parthenon Enigma* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014) ch. 5.
- Angelos Delivorrias, *The Parthenon frieze: Problems, challenges, interpretations*, photographs by Sokratis Mavrommatis (Athens: Melissa Publishing House and Benaki Museum, 2004).
- Jennifer Neils, *The Parthenon frieze* (Cambridge and New York: CUP, 2001).
- Jennifer Neils, "Reconfiguring the Gods on the Parthenon Frieze," *Art Bulletin* 81 (1999), 6-20.

Week 8 (March 3): Is the "Parthenon" the Erechtheion?

Reading: - Jan Z. van Rookhuijzen, "The Parthenon Treasury on the Acropolis of Athens," *American Journal of Archaeology* 124 (2020), 3-35.

Recommended Readings

- Jeffrey M. Hurwit, *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles* (Cambridge: CUP, 2004), ch. 6, "The Erechtheion: The Classical Temple of Athena Polias," 164-180.
- Mary B. Hollinshead, "The North Court of the Erechtheion and the Ritual of the Plynteria," *American Journal of Archaeology* 119 (2015), 177-190.
- Manolis Korres, "An early Ionic capital and the Kekropion on the Athenian Acropolis," in O. Palagia, ed., *Greek Offerings: Essays on Greek art in honour of John Boardman* (Oxford: Oxbow, 1997), 95-107.
- Jari Pakkanen, "The Erechtheion Construction Work Inventory (IG 13 474) and the Dörpfeld Temple," *American Journal of Archaeology* 110 (2006), 275-281.
- Henrik Gerding and Henrick Gerding, "The Erechtheion and the Panathenaic Procession," *American Journal of Archaeology* 110 (2006), 389-401.

*** **First Paper (5 pages) due today (upload to Canvas)**

Week 9

Spring Break

Week 10 (March 17): **Preserving and restoring the past: The Acropolis Restoration Project**

Reading: - Lucia Allais, *Designs for destruction: The making of monuments in the twentieth century* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2018), ch. 1, " 'Wardens of Civilization': Conservation and diplomacy at the 1931 Athens conference," 33-70.

Recommended Readings

- Lena Lambrinou, "Memory and its Preservation: Past and Present Ancient Ruins and Their Preservation: The Case Study of the Parthenon's East Porch," in M. Miles (ed.), *A Companion to Greek Architecture* (Oxford, Blackwell, 2016), 526-545.
- Manolis Korres, "Restoration and reconstruction work on monuments in antiquity," *La reintegrazione nel restauro dell'antico. La protezione del*

patrimonio dal rischio sismico. Atti del seminario di studi, Paestum 11 - 12 aprile 1997 (Rome 1997) 197-208.

- Tasos Tanoulas, "The restoration of the Propylaia, 1982-2011," *Selinunte. Restauri dell' antico* (Rome: Luca editori d'arte, 2016), 309-320.

Week 11 (March 24): The many lives of a monument: Hellenistic and Roman periods

Reading: - J. M. Camp, *The archaeology of Athens* (New Haven, CT: Yale Univ. Press, 2001), ch. 5, "Hellenistic Athens," 161-182.
- Dylan K. Rogers, "Roman Athens," in J. Neils and D. K. Rogers, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Athens* (Cambridge: CUP, 2021), 421-436.

Recommended Readings

- A. Stewart, *Attalos, Athens, and the Akropolis. The Pergamene "Little Barbarians" and their Roman and Renaissance Legacy* (Cambridge: CUP, 2004), 1-10, 242-267, 271.
- Catherine M. Keesling "The Hellenistic and Roman Afterlives of Dedications on the Athenian Acropolis," in Ralf Krumeich and Christian Witschel, eds., *Die Akropolis von Athen im Hellenismus und in der römischen Kaiserzeit* (Wiesbaden: Reichert Verlag, 2010), 303-327.

Week 12 (March 31): The many lives of a monument: The Parthenon church and mosque

Reading: - Robert G. Ousterhout, " 'Bestride the very peak of heaven'" The Parthenon after antiquity," in Jennifer Neils, ed., *The Parthenon: From antiquity to the present* (Cambridge: CUP, 2005), 293-329.

Recommended Readings

- Charalampos Bouras, *Byzantine Athens, 10th-12th centuries* (London and New York: Routledge, 2017), ch. 2, "The built environment and the monuments," 11-49.
- Anthony Kaldellis, *The Christian Parthenon: classicism and pilgrimage in Byzantine Athens* (Cambridge and New York: CUP, 2009), ch. 1.
- Robert G. Ousterhout, "Review of Anthony Kaldellis, *The Christian Parthenon: Classicism and Pilgrimage in Byzantine Athens* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009)," *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 18 (2010), 156-58.
- Alison Frantz, *Late antiquity, A.D. 267-700, Athenian Agora 24* (Princeton, N.J.: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1988).

Announcing 12-page paper ('Second Paper'), due on May 8

Week 13 (April 7): The Parthenon as a cultural and national symbol

Reading: - Eleana Yalouri, *The Acropolis. Global Fame, Local Claim* (Oxford and New York: Berg, 2001), "The Acropolis past and present," 27-48.

- P. Tournikiotis, "The Place of the Parthenon in the History and Theory of Modern Architecture," in P. Tournikiotis (ed.), *The Parthenon and its impact in modern times* (1994), 202–229.

Recommended Readings

- Yannis Hamilakis, *The nation and its ruins: Antiquity, archaeology, and national imagination in Greece*, Classical presences (Oxford and New York: OUP, 2007), "Nostalgia for the whole: The Parthenon (or Elgin) marbles," 243-286.
- Dimitris Plantzos, "Archaeology and Hellenic identity, 1896-2004: The frustrated vision," in Dimitris Damaskos and Dimitris Plantzos, eds., *A Singular Antiquity. Archaeology and Hellenic Identity in Twentieth-century Greece* (Athens: Benaki Museum, 2008), 10-30.
- Savas Kondaratos, "The Parthenon as a cultural ideal," in P. Tournikiotis, ed., *The Parthenon and its Impact in Modern Times* (Athens: Melissa, 1996), 18-53.
- James Cuno, *Who owns antiquity?: Museums and the battle over our ancient heritage* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010), "Introduction: The crux of the matter."
- Dimitris Plantzos, "Athens '21: Undoing the demos in the year of the pandemic," *Journal of Greek Media & Culture* 7 (2) (2021), 301-314.
- Yannis Hamilakis, "Some debts can never be repaid: The archaeo-politics of the crisis," Quinn Latimer and Adam Szymczyk, eds., *The Documenta 14 reader* (Munich: Prestel, 2017), 495-540.
- Dimitris Damaskos and Dimitris Plantzos, eds., *A Singular Antiquity. Archaeology and Hellenic Identity in Twentieth-century Greece* (Athens: Benaki Museum, 2008)
- Dimitris Plantzos, "Caryatids lost and regained: Rebranding the classical body in contemporary Greece," *Journal of Greek Media and Culture* 3 (2017), 3-29.
- Dimitris Tziouvas, ed., *Re-imagining the past: Antiquity and modern Greek culture*, Classical presences (Oxford: OUP, 2014).
- Dimitris Tziouvas, ed., *Greece in crisis: The cultural politics of austerity* (London and New York: I.B. Tauris, 2017).
- Alexander Tzonis and Phoebe Giannisi, *Classical Greek Architecture: The construction of the modern* (Paris: Flammarion, 2004).
- Alexander Tzonis and Liane Lefaivre, *Classical Architecture: The poetics of order* (Cambridge MA and London: MIT, 1999).
- Mari Lending, *Plaster monuments: Architecture and the power of reproduction* (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2017).

Week 14 (April 14): The Parthenon and the Acropolis in contemporary art and architectural projects

- Readings:
- David Gissen, Jennifer M. Stager, and Mantha Zarmakoupi, "An Archaeology of Disability, 2021" in *Biennale Architettura 2021. How will we live together?*, curated by Hashim Sarkis (Venice: La Biennale di Venezia, 2021), 54-57.

- David Gissen, Pia Hargrove, Brooke Holmes, Jennifer Stager, Christopher Tester, Pasquale Toscano, and Mantha Zarmakoupi, "An Archaeology of Disability: a dialogic essay." *Classical Antiquity* 43(2), 317-363.
- Allyson Vieira, *On the rock: The Acropolis interviews* (Chicago: Soberscove Press, 2019), Introduction.

Recommended Readings

- Christos Papoulias, *Hypertopos: Two architectural projects in Athens and Lubljana* (Ostfildern-Ruit: Cantz Verlag, 1998).
- Brooke Holmes and Karen Marta, *Liquid antiquity* (Geneva: The Deste Foundation for Contemporary Art, 2017).
- Quinn Latimer and Adam Szymczyk, eds., *The Documenta 14 reader* (Munich: Prestel, 2017).
- Panayotis Pangalos and Stavros Alifragkis, eds., *SYMBOLS & Iconic Ruins* (Athens: Eurasia Publications, 2021).

Week 15 (April 21)

*** **15-min presentations**

Week 16 (April 28)

*** **15-min presentations**

May 8

*** **Second Paper (12 pages) due today (upload to Canvas)**