

ARTH 5280. HELLENISTIC CITIES

Spring 2024, Monday 5:15-8:15 p.m.

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A new form of city and of urban life developed and spread during the Hellenistic period. The new political social and economic conditions resulting from the victories of Alexander the Great and the emergence of the Macedonian kingdoms deeply affected civic life and form. Hellenistic cities were not independent *poleis* but subject to absolute monarchs and were open to all residents regardless of their geographical origins. Civic life assumed a cosmopolitan character and the urban setting became an arena for the propaganda of the Hellenistic rulers.

This course will examine the architectural and urban developments of the Hellenistic period together with central political institutions and religious and social practices that were associated with them. In studying a diversity of visual, material and textual evidence—such as urban form, architectural and sculptural monuments, as well as literary sources and epigraphic evidence—the course will address both the structure of the urban fabric and the socio-political situation of the Hellenistic *polis*. The purpose of the course will be to shed light on the principles of urban planning as well as the realities of civic life in the Hellenistic period.

OBJECTIVES

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

- Identify and analyse the architectural and urban developments of the Hellenistic period
- Be familiar with the new form of city and of urban life that developed and spread during the Hellenistic period.
- Be able to analyse the structure of the urban fabric and the socio-political situation of the Hellenistic *polis*.

OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course students should have developed:

- Skills for the analysis and interpretation of the Hellenistic urban form.
- Ability to find, organise, evaluate and communicate visual, material and textual evidence in relation to the study of Hellenistic cities.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Participation **20%**

Active class participation

Presentation in Week 8 **20%**

At mid-term, each student will be responsible for a presentation of 10 min.

Presentation in Week 15 **20%**

Students will be responsible for a presentation of 10-15 min, drawing out aspects of the readings relating to their research for their final project / paper.

Final Project / Paper **40%**

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 12-page double-spaced research paper.

Readings

Required and recommended readings for each class will be available on Canvas.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Week 2 (January 22)

Introduction: The image of the king & Macedonia palaces

- Readings:
- R. R. R. Smith, *Hellenistic Royal Portraits* (Oxford 1988), 9-53, 109-114.
 - O. Palagia, "The Reception of Alexander in Hellenistic Art," in K.R. Moore, ed., *Brill's Companion to the Reception of Alexander the Great* (Leiden and Boston 2018), 754-74

Week 3 (January 29)

A new form of civic life: Macedonian cities

- Readings:
- Richard Billows, "Cities," in A. Erskine (ed.), *A Companion to the Hellenistic World*, Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World (Oxford 2003), 196-215.
 - S. Drougou, "Vergina – the ancient city of Aegae," in R. Lane Fox (ed.), *Brill's Companion to Ancient Macedon*, Brill's Companions to Classical Studies (Leiden and Boston 2015), 243-256.
 - I. Akamatis, "Pella," in R. Lane Fox (ed.), *Brill's Companion to Ancient Macedon*, Brill's Companions to Classical Studies (Leiden and Boston 2015), 393-408.

Week 4 (February 5)

Hellenistic cities: urban layout; agoras

- Readings:
- C. P. Dickenson, *On the Agora: The evolution of a public space in Hellenistic and Roman Greece (c. 323 BC - 267 AD)*, Mnemosyne Suppl. 398 (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017), ch. 1, "The early Hellenistic Period. 323 BC – 197 BC."
 - E. J. Owens, *The city in the Greek and Roman World* (1991), ch. 5

Week 5 (February 12)

Hellenistic cities: gymnasia, theatres

- Readings:
- F. E. Winter, *Studies in Hellenistic Architecture* (Toronto 2006) 96-114 (theatres), 115-134 (gymnasia).
 - J. Paga, "The Greek theater," in Margaret M. Miles, *A Companion to Greek Architecture* (Malden MA and Oxford 2016).
 - David Gilman Romano, "Athletics: Stadia, Gymnasia, Palaistrai, and Hippodromes," in Margaret M. Miles, *A Companion to Greek Architecture* (Malden MA and Oxford 2016).

Week 6 (February 19)

Hellenistic cities: domestic archaeology

- Readings:
- L. C. Nevett, *Domestic Space in Classical Antiquity* (Cambridge 2010), ch. 4: on the Delos houses.

- M. Trümper, 'Modest housing in Late Hellenistic Delos' in B.A. Ault and L.C. Nevett (eds), *Ancient Greek Houses and Households* (Philadelphia 2005) 119-139.
- M. Zarmakoupi, "Between public and private: The Italian houses of late Hellenistic / Roman Delos". In *Anthropology of Roman Housing* (Antiquité et sciences humaines 5), edited by Alexandra Dardenay and Nicolas Laubry (Turnhout 2020), ch. 10.

Week 7 (February 26)

Hellenistic cities: funerary archaeology

- Readings:
- J. Fedak, "Tombs and Commemorative Monuments," in F. Winter, *Studies in Hellenistic Architecture* (Toronto 2006), 86-90.
 - B. Schmidt-Dounas, "Macedonian Grave Tumuli," in O. Henry and U. Kelp (eds.) *Tumulus as Sema: Space, Politics, Culture and Religion in the First Millennium BC* (Berlin 2016), 101-142 (plates 39-42) – esp. 101-113.
 - A. Kottaridi, "Burial Customs and Beliefs in the Royal Necropolis of Aegae," in A. Kottaridi & S. Walker (eds), *Heracles to Alexander the Great* (Oxford 2011), 131-152.
 - M. B. Hatzopoulos, "The Burial of the Dead (at Vergina) or the Unending Controversy on the Identity of the Occupants of Tomb II," *Tekmeria* 9 (2008) 91-118.

Week 8 (March 4)

Spring Break

Week 9 (March 11)

Hellenistic sanctuaries

- Readings:
- H.A. Thompson, "Architecture as a medium of public relations among the successors of Alexander" in B. Barr-Sharrar and E. N. Borza (eds.), *Macedonia and Greece in Late Classical and Early Hellenistic Times* (Washington 1982) 173-190.
 - B.D. Wescoat, "Buildings for Votive Ships on Delos and Samothrace," in M. Yeroulanou and M. Stamatopoulou (eds), *Architecture and Archaeology in the Cyclades, Papers in Honour of J. J. Coulton* (Oxford 2005) 153-172.
 - B.D. Wescoat, "The pilgrim's passage into the sanctuary of the Great Gods, Samothrace," in T. M. Kristensen and W. Frieze (eds.), *Excavating pilgrimage: Archaeological approaches to sacred travel and movement in the ancient world* (London and New York 2017) 67-86.
 - R. Étienne, "The Development of the Sanctuary of Delos: new perspectives," in M. Stamatopoulou and M. Yeroulanou, eds., *Excavating Classical Culture: Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Greece* (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2002), 285-293.

Week 10 (March 18)

A world of polis: Presentations

Week 11 (March 25)

Honorific statue habit in the Hellenistic period

- Readings:
- John Ma, *Statues and Cities: Honorific Portraits and Civic Identity in the Hellenistic World* (Oxford 2013), chs. 3 and 4.
 - Sheila Dillon and Elizabeth Palmer Baltes, "Honorific Practices and the Politics of Space on Hellenistic Delos: Portrait Statue Monuments Along the Dromos," *American Journal of Archaeology* 117:2 (April 2013), pp. 207-246.

Week 12 (April 1)

Nemrud Dağ: Constructing identity in the Hellenistic World

- Reading:
- Miguel John Versluys, *Visual style and constructing identity in the Hellenistic world: Nemrud Dağ and Commagene under Antiochos I* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), ch. 3, pp. 108-184.

Week 13 (April 8)

Culture, identity and ethnicity

- Readings:
- Jonathan M. Hall, *Ethnic Identity in Greek antiquity* (Cambridge 1997) chs. 1 and 2.
 - Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, *Rome's cultural revolution* (Cambridge 2008), ch. 1

Week 14 (April 15)

From Delos to Italy: Piracy and the slave trade

- Readings:
- Vincent Gabrielsen, "Piracy and the Slave-Trade," in A. Erskine, *A Companion to the Hellenistic World* (Oxford 2003), ch. 23.
 - Gary Reger, "The economy," in A. Erskine, *A Companion to the Hellenistic World* (Oxford 2003), ch. 20.
 - Morris Silver, "The role of slave markets in migration from the Near East to Rome," *Klio* 98:1 (2016). 184-202.

Week 15 (April 22)

Project/paper presentations

Week 16 (April 29)

Project/paper presentations

MAY 13, 2021, 11:59 P.M. EST

FINAL PROJECT / PAPER

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

HELLENISTIC HISTORY

- Walbank, F.W. (ed.), *The Cambridge Ancient History*, vol. 7, part 1 (Cambridge 1984).
- Price, S. 'The History of the Hellenistic World', in J. Boardman, J. Griffin, O. Murray, *The Oxford History of the Classical World* (Oxford 1986), ch. 13.
- Rostovtzeff, M. *Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World*. 3 vols. (Oxford 1963)
- Shipley, G. *The Greek World after Alexander, 330-30 BC* (London 2000)
- Tarn, W.W. and Griffith, G.T. *Hellenistic Civilization* (3rd rev. ed. 1951)
- Walbank, F. *The Hellenistic world* (London 1981).
- Shipley, G. *The Greek World after Alexander* (London 2000).

HELLENISTIC ART, ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- Bulloch, A. et al, eds. *Images and ideologies. Self-definition in the Hellenistic world* (Berkeley 1993).
- Burn, L. *Hellenistic Art* (London 2004)
- Cohen, A. *Art in the Era of Alexander* (Cambridge 2010).
- Coulton, J.J. *The architectural development of the Greek stoa* (Oxford 1977).
- Dillon, S. *Ancient Greek portrait sculpture: contexts, subjects, and styles* (Cambridge 2006), esp. ch. 5.
- Dunbabin, K.M.D. *Mosaics of the Greek and Roman World* (Cambridge 2001).
- Fyfe, T. *Hellenistic Architecture: an introductory study* (Cambridge 1936).
- Mairs, R. *The archaeology of the Hellenistic far east: a survey* (Oxford 2011).
- Mairs, R. *The Hellenistic Far East: archaeology, language, and identity in Greek Central Asia* (Oakland, CA 2014).
- Mairs, R. *The Graeco-Bactrian and Indo-Greek world* (Routledge, 2021).
- Metcalf, W.E. *The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Coinage* (Oxford 2012), chs. 10-15.
- Morkholm, O. *Early Hellenistic Coinage: From the Accession of Alexander to the Peace of Apamea (336-188 BC)* (Cambridge 1991).
- Plantzos, D. *Hellenistic Engraved Gems* (Oxford 1999).
- Pollitt, J.J. *Art in the Hellenistic Age* (Cambridge 1986).
- Picón C.A., and S. Hemingway (eds.), *Pergamon and the Hellenistic kingdoms of the ancient world* (New York 2016).
- Sherwin White, S. and A. Kuhrt *From Samarkhand to Sardis: A new approach to the Seleucid empire* (London, Duckworth 1993).
- Smith, R.R.R. *Hellenistic Sculpture: A Handbook* (London 1991).
- Smith, R.R.R. *Hellenistic Royal portraits* (Oxford 1988).

- Stewart, A.F. *Attika: Studies in Athenian Sculpture of the Hellenistic Age* (London 1979).
- Venit, M. S. *Monumental Tombs of Ancient Alexandria: The Theater of the Dead* (Cambridge 2002).
- Versluys, J. V. *Visual Style and Constructing Identity in the Hellenistic World: Nemrud Dağ and Commagene under Antiochos I* (Cambridge 2017)
- Winter, F.E. *Studies in Hellenistic Architecture* (Toronto 2006).
- Zanker, P. *The Mask of Sokrates: The Image of the Intellectual in Antiquity* (Berkeley 1995).

THE ANCIENT CITY AND HELLENISTIC CITIES

- Jones, A.H.M. *The Greek City, from Alexander to Justinian* (Oxford 1940).
- Wycherley R.E., 'Hellenistic cities', *The Town Planning Review* 22 (1951), 177-205.
- Owens, E.J. *The City in the Greek and Roman World* (London 1991), ch. 5 ('Town planning in the Hellenistic world').
- Wycherley, R.E. *How the Greeks built Cities*, 2nd edition (London 1976).
- Zuiderhoek, A. *The ancient city* (Cambridge 2017).

COMPANIONS TO THE HELLENISTIC WORLD

- Erskine, A. (ed.), *A Companion to the Hellenistic World* (Oxford 2003).
- Bugh, G. (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Hellenistic World* (Cambridge 2006).

ITALY AND ROME

- Boethius, A. *Etruscan and Early Roman Architecture* (Harmondsworth 1978), chs. 5-6.
- Cornell, T.J. *The Beginnings of Rome: Italy and Rome from the Bronze Age to the Punic Wars, 1000-264 BC* (London 1995), esp. ch. 6 and pp. 390-8.
- Kay, P. *Rome's economic revolution* (Oxford 2014).
- Kleiner, D.E.E. *Roman Sculpture* (New Haven 1992), ch. 1.
- Kleiner, F. S. *A History of Roman Art* (Wadsworth 2006), chs. 1-5.
- Roselaar, S. T. *Italy's economic revolution: integration and economy in Republican Italy* (Oxford 2019).
- Strong, D. *Roman Art* (2nd ed., revised and annotated under ed. R. Ling; London 1995).
- Torelli, M. *Tota Italia: Essays on the Cultural Formation of Roman Italy* (Oxford 1999).
- Tuck, S. L. *A History of Roman Art* (Chichester 2015), chs. 4-6.
- Wallace-Hadrill, A. *Rome's Cultural Revolution* (Cambridge 2008).
- Wallace-Hadrill, A. *Houses and Society in Pompeii and Herculaneum* (Princeton 1994).
- Zanker, P. *The Power of Images in Age of Augustus* (Ann Arbor 1988), ch. 1.
- Zanker, P. *Pompeii: Public and Private Life* (Cambridge, MA 1998), 27-133.

[See also Course Materials @Penn Libraries](#)