

# The Ancient Mediterranean World: History, Archaeology and Art

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## Pre-course in Archaeology of the Mediterranean

### SYLLABUS

#### Course Requirements

This preparatory course is composed of lectures. You are required to attend scheduled classes and to participate in group discussions.

#### Course Description and Objectives

This course addresses the basic methods and themes of the Archaeology of the Mediterranean from the Neolithic to the Late Antique through a survey of the key sites and artefacts. Approaches useful for the interpretation of material evidence and the problems inherent in such interpretation will be explored. Through the study of major sites in chronological sequence, we will survey the development of material culture in the Mediterranean World, placing the artistic production into its social and cultural settings.

Thus, by the end of the preparatory course, you should be able to:

- become aware of the main civilizations and social and political patterns defined within the Mediterranean
- identify the broad historical periods of Mediterranean archaeology to place major events and artistic personalities/phenomena within those periods
- discuss selected social, political, economic, and technological issues regarding the ancient Mediterranean world
- identify and describe accurately key artefacts and key sites of the Mediterranean, using appropriate concepts and vocabulary, and place them in their historical, technological, and cultural context

#### Prerequisites

The course is designed for MedArc MA students who have **never** studied any of the archaeologies of the Mediterranean in their BA. It is considered an introductory course for all archaeology exams in the program. No prerequisites for this course are required as no knowledge of the ancient Mediterranean world is assumed. Please consider that, although no formal exam is planned at the

end of the preparatory course, the reading of the suggested texts – combined with attentive participation to classes – **will significantly improve** your chances of succeeding in the Archaeological courses of the year.

### Suggested Textbooks

- **Matthews, R.** *Archaeology of Mesopotamia: Theories and approaches*. Routledge, London 2003. ISBN: 0415253179
- **Stansbury-O'Donnell, Mark D.** *A History of Greek Art*. Wiley Blackwell, Hoboken, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-4443-5015-9
- **Kleiner, Fred S.** *A History of Roman Art. Enhanced Edition*. Wadsworth, Boston, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-495-90987-3

The pdf version of books, as well as additional readings, will be available on the course website through the Kiro platform.

### Assessment

No formal exam is planned at the end of the course.

### Schedule of Lectures

1. 19/09, Aula L5, 11-13: Approaching domestication, sedentarization and imagination of the world: Neolithic and Neolithization in western Asia (Fantoni)
2. 20/09, Aula L5, 11-13: Specialization, inequality, trade and war: the first urbanization in western Asia (4<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> millennia BCE) (Fantoni)
3. 22/09, Aula L5, 11-13: Formation and blossoming of Pharaonic Egypt (late 4<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE) (Fantoni)
4. 23/09, Aula L5, 11-13: The Age of Diplomacy: formation and balance of Great Powers in the Eastern Mediterranean (Mycenae, Hatti, Mittanni, Assyria, Babylonia and Pharaonic Egypt, 1600-1200 BCE) (Fantoni)
5. 26/09, Aula Seminari, 13-15: Prehistory of Western Mediterranean: from the first farmers to the early complex societies (tbd)
6. 27/09, Aula Seminari, 17-19: Fear of the Dark: The Early Iron Age in the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean (C. Fantoni).
7. 28/09, Aula Seminari, 13-15: Phoenician and Greek colonizations of the Mediterranean (Moiraghi)
8. 29/09, Aula Seminari, 17-19: Assyria and the archaeology of empires (Moiraghi)
9. 03/10, Aula Seminari, 13-15: Roaring Lions and Smiling Statues: new elite building in the Mediterranean (Greece and Italy?) (Sorbello)

10. 04/10, Aula Seminari, 17-19: The Artist and the City: Classical and Post-Classical Greece (Sorbelli)
11. 05/10, Aula Seminari, 13:15: A New World: Alexander and the Hellenistic Period (Sorbelli)
12. 06/10, Aula Seminari, 17-19: The First Rome: The Roman Republic (Sorbelli)
13. 10/10, Aula Seminari, 13-15: What have the Romans ever done for Us? The Roman Empire (Sorbelli)
14. 11/10, Aula Seminari, 17-19: Collapse vs. continuity? Archaeology of the Late Antique period (Sorbelli)
15. 13/10, Aula Seminari, 17-19: Mediterraneization: defining the Mediterranean within the ancient world, from Braudel through Horden and Purcell to Broodbank (L. d'Alfonso)