Title: History and Archaeology of the Bronze Age Minoan and Mycenaean Settlements in Crete

The class will examine Bronze Age settlements of the Minoan Civilization and its consequent defeat and occupation by the Mycenaean Greeks. Students will be exposed to monumental remnants and sites of the Minoan Civilization such as Knossos, Phaestos, Malia, Gournia, Zakros, Acharnes, Gortys, Hagia Triada, Kritsa, Toplou, Spinalonga and Herakleion Museum. The focus of the class will be a composite examination of history, archaeology, religion and mythology, society and culture, politics, trade routes and thalassocracy, art and architecture. Since this class will take place abroad in Crete, Greece, Students will be given an overview of the general Greek language and culture both ancient and modern and the class will trace the evolution of Crete from the Minoans and the Mycenaeans to its state of being during Classical and Hellenist Greece, the Roman occupation to more contemporary influences.

Required Textbooks:


All assignments listed below are in Preziosi and Hitchcock. The assignments in Shelmerdine are so indicated.

Tentative Class schedule:

Week 1: Introduction: Aegean Art and Architecture

Chapter 1

The Environment
Discovering the Aegean World
Art and History

Chapter 2

The Neolithic Period and the Prepalatial Early Bronze Age

Settlements
Burial Practices


**Week 2: The First Palace Period**

Chapter 3

Middle Bronze Age Palaces and Villas
The Vernacular tradition in Greece and Crete
Ritual Practices


**Week 3: The Second Palace Period**

Chapter 4

Public art, private art, and the palatial architectural style
The Second Palaces: Knossos, Phaestos, Gournia, and Kato Zakro
Minoan Villas: function and design
The terminology and typology of Minoan palatial buildings
The Minoan and Mycenaean spheres of influence
Religious practices
Burial practices

Week 4: Mycenaean Domination and Minoan Tradition

Chapter 5

The Mycenaean Palace of Pylos
The Mycenaean Palace of Knossos
Haghia Triada and Kommos
The continuation of Minoan building techniques in the third palace period

Burial practices
The Mycenaean shrine at Phylakopi
The Circuit walls at Mycenae and Tiryns


Week 5. Conclusion: Disruption, (Dis)Continuities, and the Bronze Age

Chapter 6

The eastward migration of Aegean traditions
The international style
Cyprus, Palestine and the Peoples of the Sea
Tradition and transformation
What goes around comes around: Daedalus returns to Crete


Mee, C. ”Mycenaean Greece, The Aegean And Beyond.” In the Cambridge Companion to the Aegean Bronze Age, edited by C. Shelmerdine.

PAPER DUE!!!!!