Course Description
The course aims at introducing students to archaeological fieldwork methods and theory through active participation in the systematic excavation of the site of “Mandra”, where the most important sanctuary of the Cyclades, after Delos, was founded during the 6th century BC. Despotiko is today an uninhabited islet, west of Antiparos in the centre of the Aegean Sea.

The course will provide students with the opportunity to unveil the history of the site and the different phases and types of human activity that occurred there, mostly of ritual character. The excavation season of 2019 will focus on the systematic excavation of one or more edifices both inside and outside the sacred precinct, which were first detected by CYA students during the excavation of 2018. (See https://www.culture.gr/en/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2328 for the fruitful results of 2018).
During the first three weeks at the site, students will familiarize themselves with the entire excavation procedure. They will be taught the basic methods of stratigraphical excavation, onsite documentation, and the recording and processing of finds. Work at the site will be combined with a number of activities in the afternoons, including detailed documentation of the activities at the site, preparation of architectural plans and, more importantly, of the excavation diary.

Students will have the opportunity to meet and talk with experts from all over the world, and members of the research team include architects, photographers, geologists, and conservators.

Moreover, a series of lectures will be given on issues concerning archaeological theory and methods and various types of archaeological evidence, with a focus on the material from Despotiko, ancient religious practices and rituals, and the birth and development of Greek sanctuaries, particularly those in the Cyclades. The aim of these lectures is to enable students to fully comprehend the purposes of a systematic excavation and to place the sanctuary and its material culture into a theoretical context. Optional study trips to the islands of Naxos and Delos, where some of the most important sanctuaries of the Aegean were situated, are also scheduled.

The fourth week of the course will be spent on the island of Paros and in the storage rooms of the Archaeological Museum of Paros. There, students will work on the material discovered during the
previous weeks at the site. They will be trained in detailed processing of the finds, mostly pottery, figurines, and other minor objects. They will learn how to clean, sort, catalogue, draw, and photograph the material. They will therefore become acquainted with the process which enables the detailed study, interpretation, and publication of excavated material.

Morning work at the museum will be combined with afternoon classes focusing on the nature of the various objects coming from the site, with a special focus on the clay vases, clay figurines, and other clay or metal finds. Students will be provided with supplementary information on the examined material through discussions adapted to the nature of the finds processed at the museum.

The final exam, scheduled for the last day, aims at testing the knowledge gained by students throughout the experience at the site and the museum as well as from the bibliography studied during the same time period.

Course Requirements

Antiparos-Despotiko

Participation in the excavation (25%)​

Disciplined, enthusiastic participation in the excavation is a basic parameter for the successful completion of the course. Everyday on-time attendance and respect for the schedule rules set by the director of the excavation are required. Each student will serve as a trench-master for a number of days, being responsible for the excavation diary and everyday recording of finds. Careful reading of the assignments and the afternoon classes will provide the basis for this responsibility.

Class participation (25%)​

Attendance of the afternoon classes is compulsory. The study of the suggested bibliography and students’ active participation will contribute substantially towards the final grade.
**Paros**

**Participation in the activities in the storage rooms of the Archaeological Museum of Paros (25%)**.

The final grade will take into account participation in the processing work at the museum.

**Final Examination (25%)**

The two-hour written exam is based on the three-week excavation experience at the site of Despotiko, the study week at the museum of Paros, and the material provided during the course.

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**Attendance:** Students are expected to report for classes promptly. CYA regards attendance in class and on-site as essential. Absences are recorded and have consequences. Illness or other such compelling reasons which result in absences should be reported immediately.

**Policy on Original Work:** Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided. (Check Student handbook, pg. 9)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you are a registered (with your home institution) student with a disability and you are entitled to learning accommodation, please inform the Vice President for Academic Affairs and make sure that your school forwards the necessary documentation.
Bibliography

Despotiko


Archaeology & Methods


Sanctuaries


Greek Pottery

Class Schedule

WEEK 1

Introduction to Archaeological Methods

Day 1
13.30 Arrival at the Port of Antiparos
15.30 Transfer to the hotel
18.00 Orientation

Day 2
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Discovering Despotiko
Introduction to documentation of the excavation

Day 3
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Introduction. Theoretical approaches to Classical Archaeology
[Renfrew & Bahn: Introduction & Chapter 1; Haggis & Antonaccio 2015]
Preparation of the Excavation Diary

Day 4
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Discovering an Archaeological Site: Project Development and Excavation Methods
[Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 3]
Preparation of the Excavation Diary

Day 5
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Processing, Classification and Recording, Artefact Categories
[Renfrew & Bahn : Chapter 2]
Preparation of the Excavation Diary

Day 6
Optional study trip to the sanctuaries on the island of Naxos
# WEEK 2

**Greek Sanctuaries**

### Day 7
- 07.30-14.30: On-site Excavation
- 15.00: Lunch
- 19.00: **Lecture:** Chronology and Periodization
  - [Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 4](#)
  - Preparation of the Excavation Diary

### Day 8
- 07.30-14.30: On-site Excavation
- 15.00: Lunch
- 19.00: **Lecture:** Introduction to Greek Sanctuaries
  - [Pedley Chapters IV-VI](#)
  - Preparation of the Excavation Diary

### Day 9
- 07.30-14.30: On-site Excavation
- 15.00: Lunch
- 19.00: **Lecture:** Birth of the Greek Sanctuaries & Ritual Dining
  - Preparation of the Excavation Diary

### Day 10
- 07.30-14.30: On-site Excavation
- 15.00: Lunch
- 19.00: **Lecture:** Ritual Practices & Sacrifice
  - Preparation of the Excavation Diary

### Day 11
- 07.30-14.30: On-site Excavation
- 15.00: Lunch
- 19.00: **Lecture:** Votive Dedications
  - [Pedley Chapter VII](#)

### Day 12
- Optional study trip to the sanctuary on the island of Delos
WEEK 3

Despotiko in its Context: Approaching Archaic Cycladic Sanctuaries

Day 13
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Paros
[Y. Kourayos & K. Daifa]
Preparation of the Excavation Diary

Day 14
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Naxos
Preparation of the Excavation Diary

Day 15
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Delos
Preparation of the Excavation Diary

Day 16
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Kythnos
[Prof. A. Mazarakis Ainian]
Preparation of the Excavation Diary

Day 17
7.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00    Lunch
19.00

**Lecture:** The Geology of Despotiko, Antiparos & Paros
[Dr. Erich Draganits]
Preparation of the Excavation Diary

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**WEEK 4**

**Archaeological Museum of Paros**

**Day 18**
07.30-14.30  Material Processing
15.00  Lunch
19.00  **Lecture:** Introduction to Cycladic ceramics

**Day 19**
07.30-14.30  Material Processing
15.00  Lunch
19.00  **Lecture:** Shapes & Uses, Typologies & Utilitys

**Day 20**
07.30-14.30  Material Processing
15.00  Lunch
19.00  **Lecture:** Pots & Images

**Day 21**
07.30-14.30  Material Processing
15.00  Lunch
19.00  **Lecture:** Clay Figurines & various Clay Objects

**Day 22**
07.30-14.30  Material Processing
15.00  Lunch
18.00  **Final Exam**
Course schedule, in terms of subjects and readings, may be subject to change to benefit student learning and in keeping up to date with current research.