MS321 Excavating in the Aegean: the Case of Despotiko
(Paros, Antiparos)

28 May-23 June
2018

College Year in Athens

Dr. Alexandra Alexandridou
**CYA** summer course MS321 "Excavating in the Aegean: the Case of Despotiko (Paros, Antiparos)" aims at introducing students to archaeological fieldwork methods and theory through active participation in the systematic excavation of the sanctuary of Apollo situated on the uninhabited islet of Despotiko, west of Antiparos in the centre of the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea.

The course will provide students the opportunity to unveil the history and the different phases of ritual activity at the most important Cycladic sanctuary after Delos. The excavation season of 2018, will focus on the systematic excavation of one of the edifices lying outside the sacred precinct, which has been detected last year by the group of CYA students. Its exploration is of immense importance for identifying the character of the building and reconstructing the activities it housed.

During the first three weeks at the site, the students will familiarize themselves with the entire excavation procedure. They will be taught the basic methods of stratigraphical excavation, the onsite documentation, the recording and processing of the finds. The work at the site will be combined with a number of activities in the afternoons including the detailed documentation of the activities at the site, the preparation of architectural plans and, more importantly, of the excavation diary.

Moreover, a series of lectures will be given on issues concerning archaeological theory and methods, the various types of archaeological evidence with a focus on the material from Despotiko, ancient religious practices and rituals, 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, to visit some of the most important sanctuaries of the Aegean, are scheduled.

The fourth week of the course will be spent on the island of Paros, and 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 at the 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 the 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 with our 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 period of time.

REQUIREMENTS

Antiparos-Despotiko

Participation at the excavation (25%)

The disciplined, enthusiastic participation in the excavation is a basic parameter for the successful completion of the course. The everyday on-time attendance and the respect of 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 the everyday recording of the finds. The careful reading of the assignments and the afternoon classes will provide the basis for this responsibility.

Class participation (25%)
The attendance of the afternoon classes is compulsory. The study of the suggested bibliography and the active participation of the students will contribute substantially toward the final grade.

*Paros*

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

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

**Final Examination (25%)**

A 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.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEKI**

28 May-2 June 2018
**Introduction to Archaeological Methods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. May28</td>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>Arrival at the Port of Antiparos</td>
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<td>15.30</td>
<td>Transfer to the hotel</td>
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<td>18.00</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<td>T. May29</td>
<td>07.30-14.30</td>
<td>On-site Excavation</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>Lecture: Discovering Despotiko</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. May30</td>
<td>07.30-14.30</td>
<td>On-site Excavation</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>Lecture: Introduction. Theoretical approaches to Classical Archaeology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
T.May31 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]

F. June 1 07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00     Lunch
19.00     Lecture: Processing, Classification and Recording,
           Artefact Categories
           [Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 2]

S.June2     Optional study trip to the sanctuary on the island of
           Naxos
WEEK2

4-9 June 2018

Greek Sanctuaries

M. June 4
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 **Lecture:** Chronology and Periodization
   [Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 4]

T. June 5
07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Introduction to Greek Sanctuaries
[Pedley Chapters IV-VI]

W.June 6 07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Birth of the Greek Sanctuaries & Ritual Dining

T.June 7 07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Ritual Practices & Sacrifice

F.June 8 07.30-14.30 On-site Excavation
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Votive Dedications
[Pedley Chapter VII]

S.June 9 Optional study trip to the sanctuary on the island of Delos

WEEK3

11-16 June 2018
### Despotiko in its Context: Approaching Archaic Cycladic Sanctuaries

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. June 11</td>
<td>07.30-14.30</td>
<td>On-site Excavation</td>
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<tr>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Paros</td>
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<td>T. June 12</td>
<td>07.30-14.30</td>
<td>On-site Excavation</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Naxos</td>
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<td>W. June 13</td>
<td>07.30-14.30</td>
<td>On-site Excavation</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> Delos</td>
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<td>T. June 14</td>
<td>07.30-14.30</td>
<td>On-site Excavation</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> The Sanctuaries of the Cyclades: Kythnos</td>
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<td>[Mazarakis Ainian]</td>
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<td>F. June 15</td>
<td>7.30-14.30</td>
<td>On-site Excavation</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>19.00</td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> The Geology of Despotiko, Antiparos &amp; Paros</td>
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<td>(Dr. Erich Draganits)</td>
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<td>S. June 16</td>
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<td>Antiparos Race (10 or 21 km)</td>
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WEEK 4

18-22 June 2018

Archaeological Museum of Paros

M. June 18
07.30-14.30 Material Processing
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Introduction to Cycladic ceramics

T. June 19
07.30-14.30 Material Processing
15.00 Lunch
19.00 Lecture: Shapes & Uses, Typologies & Utilities
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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>W. June 20</td>
<td>07.30-14.30</td>
<td>Material Processing</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>19.00</td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> Pots &amp; Images</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. June 21</td>
<td>07.30-14.30</td>
<td>Material Processing</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>19.00</td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> Clay Figurines &amp; various Clay Objects</td>
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<td>F. June 22</td>
<td>07.30-14.30</td>
<td>Material Processing</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Despotiko


Archaeology & Methods


Sanctuaries


Sanctuaries & Cults in the Cyclades: http://cs.ha.uth.gr

Greek Pottery


MAPS
Greece and the Asia Minor coast
The Cyclades
Basic Greek Chronology

900 BC

800 BC

Geometric

700 BC

A-oto-Corinthian

600 BC

Archaic

Rpe Corinthian

500 BC

Classical

400 BC

300 BC

480 BC

323 BC