
Weekend Courses 2024-25

Untangling Mediterranean identities (3000 BCE-300 CE)

Start date: 1 November 2024

End date: 3 November 2024

Venue: Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor: **Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou** **Course Code: 2425NRX007**

Tutor biography

Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou is the Behrakis Chair, Art of Ancient Greece and Rome Department, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Previously she worked as Senior Curator and Senior Assistant Keeper for the Antiquities Department of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. She conducted postdoctoral research in Berlin for two years before moving to the University of Cambridge. Anastasia focused on the Archaeology of the Greek EIA and Archaic periods, particularly the architecture and material cultures of the Greek domestic environment as part of the doctoral thesis in Cambridge.

Her recent research topics also include the Archaeology of the Aegean Bronze Age, Island Archaeology, and the Archaeology of Cyprus, as well as Public Archaeology and Public engagement with Museums. She is currently leading the interdisciplinary research project 'Being an Islander': Art and Identity of the large Mediterranean Islands, (2019-2024) aiming to critically re-examine the concept of island life through material culture. The project included a major exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum opened February 2023, which showcased archaeological finds and artworks from the islands of Cyprus, Sardinia, and Crete. She has previously curated together with Dr I. Galanakis, another exhibition on the history of codebreaking. She has worked extensively as research associate on archaeological projects in Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey for over 10 years. Anastasia has taught as a temporary lecturer in London (Birkbeck College) and has been a supervisor for Art and Archaeology in Cambridge since 2007. She currently advises doctoral students in Mediterranean Archaeology (University of Cambridge), and she is also a Tutor for Classical Art and Archaeology for the Institute of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall. She is also part of the De Caucus for Classical Art and Archaeology at the Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge.

Her teaching style includes introducing students to the archaeological, historical, and sociological context of the material evidence examined during her lectures and seminars, paired with regular handling sessions and practical exercises with ancient objects. These allow students to experience ancient material cultures first hand, as well to develop academic and practical skills for their future professional orientations in the fields of archaeology, classics, and Museum studies.

Summary of content:

What shaped life and cultures in the Ancient Mediterranean between 3000 BCE-300 CE? This course offers an overview of cultures and their identities in the Ancient Mediterranean including discussions on what influences culture, ways of living and creating architecture, art, material culture, as well as language and heritage. The cultures of the Ancient Mediterranean were constantly shaped by interaction between Mediterranean island regions and their surrounding mainlands, this course brings the study of the Ancient Mediterranean world, into this perspective.

We will focus on specific case studies examining large environments and their cultural evolutions (eg, Minoan Crete, Mycenaean Greece, Nuragic Sardinia, Classical Cyprus, Roman period Anatolia) as well as networks between these territories and their dynamics. Overall, this course will extend our perspective from the 'hegemony' of the Mediterranean cultures such as Greece and Rome during antiquity and urge us to think of Mediterranean identities and cultures as hybrid formations linked to geography, resources, interaction, and human mobility.

Aims:

This course aims to:

- introduce you to the Archaeology of the Mediterranean Identities, in a broad cultural and diachronic perspective, from the Early Bronze Age to the Late Roman period, encompassing case studies from a wide geographic perspective, from the easternmost Mediterranean islands and Anatolia to Greece, mainland Italy, the Italian islands (eg Sardinia, Sicily) and the Balearic Islands
- cover a wide range of topics, such as the archaeology and history of different Mediterranean regions, environments and resources, economy, food, and subsistence patterns, including discussions on biodiversity and sustainability in the past and present, all contributing to the formation and development of Mediterranean Identities diachronically
- examine the distinctive art and material cultures of the Mediterranean, including immaterial culture and heritage and provide methodological tools for you to assess and distinguish between different art and material culture categories

Course sessions

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Definition of Mediterranean Identities: What shapes culture and society in the Mediterranean?
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	The long Bronze Age period from Anatolia to Italy: processes of urbanisation and rise of social complexities across the Mediterranean basin
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	A region shaped by islands and mobility: Island cultures and their identity, networks of interaction and mobility
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Geography, landscape, and territories: Understanding identity through environment and landscape
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	What drives evolution and development of culture in the Mediterranean, or what contributes to and collapse of systems? Case studies of peak powers and systems and scenarios of their decline
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Identities of the living and the dead: domestic architecture and family life, burial customs from the Iron Age to the end of the Hellenistic period
10:30	Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **Locating the Late Mediterranean world: people, expansion, transformations, and the legacy of the Mediterranean cultures to today**

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch.

Presentation of the course:

Methods of teaching this course will include presentation and assessment of archaeological, historical, and ancient literature evidence, as well as evidence of visual culture data revealing the complexity of Mediterranean identities and the range of cultures in the Mediterranean. You will be encouraged to contribute and expand on the given materials, and you will receive plenty of support to form your own evaluation and analysis of the material covered during the sessions.

Learning outcomes:

As a result of the course, you will gain a greater understanding of the subject and you should be able to:

- equip you with an understanding of the core themes and questions that drive the discipline of Mediterranean history, in a broad comparative perspective that considers developments in different chronological periods
- become familiar with the role of different types of architecture, material culture and organic residues used in our interpretations
- acquire methodological and theoretical tools enabling you to assess linguistic, epigraphic, and immaterial culture evidence, and how to use these to understand human activity and evolution from the Bronze Age to the Late Roman period

Reading and resources list

There are no compulsory readings for this course.

However, you may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.

Mediterranean Islands project website: [Being an Islander | A research and exhibition website for Being an Islander \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/being-an-islander) See sections on research, exhibition and resources.

Blake, E and Knapp, A, B, *The Archaeology of Mediterranean Prehistory* (Wiley-Blackwell 2005)

Braudel, F, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II, Vol. 1* (Collins 1972) 2nd edition

Broodbank, C, *The Making of the Middle Sea: A History of the Mediterranean from the Beginning to the Emergence of the Classical World* (Thames and Hudson 2013)

Greene, E, S, "Shipwrecks as indices of Archaic Mediterranean trade networks." In *Maritime Networks in the Ancient Mediterranean World*, edited by Leidwanger, J and Knappett, C, (Cambridge University Press 2018) chapter 6, pp132–162

Lyons, C, Bennett, M, and Marconi C, *Sicily - Art and Invention Between Greece and Rome* (Getty Publications 2013)

Renfrew, C, *The Explanation of Culture Change: Models in Prehistory* (Gerald Duckworth & Co Ltd 1973) In which of influence is the seminal paper by Evans, J, D, "Islands as Laboratories for the Study of Cultural Process", pp517-520

Tronchetti, C, "Cultural interactions in Iron Age Sardinia." In *The Cambridge Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean*, edited by van Dommelen, P and Knapp, A, B, pp266–284 (Cambridge University Press 2015)

van Dommelen, P, "Islands in History", *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 12(2): 246-251 (1999)

Note: Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) students are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current ICE course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

(Information correct as of April 2024)