GREA HIAN 331 - Ancient Greek Sanctuaries

Credits: 4  
Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

This course investigates the sanctuaries of Ancient Greece, with an emphasis on the components of sanctuary space and the religious activities that occurred there. The primary focus of the class is a consideration of the intersection of sanctuary architecture and religious festivals within the sanctuaries. After an introduction to ancient Greek religion, the class turns to several case study sanctuaries in detail. Each case study investigates the primary deity or deities worshipped there, evaluates the foundation myths for the god’s presence at the sanctuary, outlines the sanctuary’s main festivals, and studies the facilities of the sanctuary, such as its altars, temples, stoas, and other buildings. The culmination of each case study is a field trip to that sanctuary, and will include classes in Athens, day trips to Eleusis and Epidauros, and longer trips to Delphi and Olympia.

Learning Outcomes:

Each student will master a variety of skills during this course, through a various assignment types and classroom approaches. Learning the material of the course’s subject is only the first step. Through a combination of lecture and discussion in the classroom, which is based on required readings, a plurality of perspectives will emerge. Each student will have the opportunity to evaluate readings as well as lecture material, both in oral discussion and in written response papers. Through on-site reports of particular monuments, each student takes responsibility for presenting material to the other students. Each type of presentation also requires each student to moderate discussion and to respond to questions from the rest of the class. Emphasis is placed on improving writing skills and practicing to read critically, as well as building confidence during oral presentations.

Course Requirements:

Participation (10%)  
On-Site Reports, with Annotated Bibliography (2@15%=30%)  
Mid-Term (15%)  
Final Exam (15%)  
Reading Response Essays (2@5%=10%)  
Sanctuary Project (20%)

Primary Texts:

Course Outline:

1. General Consideration of Greek religion and sanctuaries
2. Introduction to Greek religion and sanctuaries
3. Discussion of religious rituals, including sacrifice in Greek religion.
4. Site visit to Athenian Acropolis. Sanctuary Case Studies.
5. Athena’s Sanctuary on the Acropolis, Propylaia, Erechtheion, and Temple of Athena Nike
6. Athena’s Sanctuary on the Acropolis, part II The Parthenon.
7. Site Visit—The Kerameikos and Panathenaic Way
8. Site Visit—Agora, including the Panathenaic Way
9. Site Visit—Acropolis, Athena’s sanctuary
10. The Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore at Eleusis
11. The Eleusinian Mysteries, including iconography and sanctuary architecture
12. The Homeric Hymn to Demeter and the Thesmophoria
13. Site Visit to Eleusis
14. The Sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi. Oracle and sanctuary origins. Homeric Hymn to Apollo
15. Dedications and Sanctuary architecture, part I
16. Trip to Delphi. Site reports: Euripides, Ion
17. The Sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia. Foundation of games and sanctuary
18. Sanctuary architecture and sculpture
19. Olympieion and Ilissos Area, Panathenaic Stadium
20. The Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidauros
21. Cult practice and sanctuary origins
22. Site Visit to Olympia
23. Site Visit—Acropolis South Slope
24. Site Visit—Epidauros

Select Bibliography (sources in Arcadia Center Library):


Edelstein, E. and L. (1945) *Asclepius: Collection and Interpretation of the Testimonies.* (No. 423, IG I, 1, nos. 121-122).


Ferguson, J. *A Companion to Greek Tragedy.* (Ch. 2: The Audience and the Theater, ch. 18: Euripides, ch. 26: Ion).


Haselberger, L. “Bending the Truth: Curvature and Other Refinements of the Parthenon.” In *The Parthenon from Antiquity to the Present.* (pp. 101-158).


Jenkins, I. “The Parthenon Frieze and Perikles’ Cavalry of 1000.” In *Periclean Athens and its Legacy* (pp. 147-161).

Lapatin, K. “The Statue of Athena and Other Treasures in the Parthenon.” In *The Parthenon from Antiquity to Present.* (pp. 261-292).


LiDonnici, L.R. (1995) *The Epidaurian Miracle Inscriptions. Text, Translation, and*


Neils, J. “‘With Noblest Images on All Sides’: The Ionic Frieze of the Parthenon.” In *The Parthenon: From Antiquity to the Present.* (pp. 199-224).


