GREA HIAN 333S “On the Trail of Alexander the Great:” Greek History, Art, and Architecture in the Hellenistic Age

Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Course is offered: Summer semester

Course Description: This course is an intensive investigation into the world of Alexander the Great and Hellenistic Greece, with an emphasis on the history, art, and culture of the period 350-31 B.C. Our class will include several site and museum visits, as well as in-class and on-site lectures and discussion of course materials, as we track down the life and times of Alexander and his successors.

Learning Outcomes: Each student will master a variety of skills during this course, through different types of assignments and classroom approaches. Learning the material of the course’s subject is only the first step. Through a combination of lecture and discussion, which is based on required readings from primary sources, 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 quizzes. Through individual on-site reports of particular monuments and historical problems, 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 (15%)
Written quizzes (4 quizzes, each 10%=40%)
On-Site report with annotated bibliography (20%)
Final exam (25%)

Primary Texts:

Course Outline:
1. Introduction to course: discussion of the 4th century and the Rise of Macedon.
2. The Athenian Acropolis-The Hellenistic Acropolis (meet at entrance).
3. National Archaeological Museum-The Hellenistic collection (meet at museum entrance)
Site Reports.
4. The Athenian Agora and museum (Hellenistic material); Tower of the Winds
5. Site visit to Chaoroneia.
6. Site visit to Pella, Tombs of Lefkadia, Vergina
7. Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki. Site visit to Dion.
8. Boat to Samos
10. Site visit to Ephesus.
11. Free day to explore Kusadasi
12. Site visit to Priene, Miletus, and Didyma.
13. Ferry from Kusadasi to Samos, return to Athens.

Select Bibliography (Sources in the Arcadia Center library):
Books:
Dinsmoor, W.B. Greek Architecture.
Fullerton, M. Greek Art.
Green, P. Alexander of Macedon.
Green, P. Alexander to Actium.
Knigge, U. The Athenian Kerameikos.
Pollitt, J.J. Art in the Hellenistic Age.
Ridgway, B. Hellenistic Sculpture I. The Styles of ca. 331-200 B.C.
Smith, R.R.R. Hellenistic Sculpture.
Travlos, J. Pictorial Dictionary of Athens.
Wycherly, R.H. The Stones of Athens.

Articles and excerpts:
Thompson, H. The Stoa of Attalos II in Athens.