Established in 2006, HERC is dedicated to the promotion of Hellenic Studies by offering or facilitating university level study abroad programs in Greece.

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Jews and Early Christians in the Graeco-Roman World

The Cases of Athens, Corinth and Delos

The course will examine the presence and history of the Jewish Diaspora and Early Christianity in Roman Greece on the basis of literary sources, archaeological remains and ancient inscriptions.

Classes will take place in three locations that played a central role to both communities:

- Athens, the cosmopolitan city where diversity flourished.
- Corinth, where architectural parts of the ancient synagogue survive and a very significant early church was established.
- The island of Delos, a major religious and commercial center of the Graeco-Roman world where archaeological evidence of the oldest diaspora synagogue is preserved.

Emphasis will be given on the maintenance of Jewish beliefs and ethics in the Graeco-Roman World and the early creation and development of Christianity by Paul.

Readings will include Jewish, Christian and Pagan authors.

Athens and Sparta

“For my part, I understand not the many words used by the Athenians”

Sthenelaidas, Spartan Ephor, 432 BCE
Thucydides, Book 1.86

Athens and Sparta, the two greatest Greek city-states, clashed bitterly, have been perceived since Antiquity as opposites, yet both have forged the core values of Western civilization.

Athens, the birthplace of democracy, was a creative wonderland for arts, humanities and sciences. Sparta, by comparison, worshipped discipline and military values, favoring actions over words.

The program will deliver a full semester load comprising four courses, covering subjects such as Athenian and Spartan history and political institutions, war and religion, art and archaeology.

Classes will take place in Athens, with extended periods of time spent in Sparta. Students will receive extensive on-site teaching at a wide range of sites, monuments and museums in Attica and Laconia.

Emphasis will be given to the study of primary literary and archaeological sources (including inscriptions).
Ancient Thouria Excavation

Participation in the excavation of the Ancient city of Thouria near Kalamata in Messenia (Peloponnese, Greece). A favorite of students from around the world, the Thouria Program started in 2011 and will be taking place for the tenth summer in a row.

Thouria, the Homeric city of Antheia, was the most important “perioikos polis” of western Messenia during Spartan domination.

Mentioned by both Thucydides and Pausanias, Thouria gained independence from Sparta in 369 BCE but was handed back to the Spartans by Augustus in later times.

The excavations at the Classical-Hellenistic site began in 2007 and so far have brought to light significant remains of public and sacred buildings (www.ancientthouriaexcavation.gr).

Students will work at the excavation and learn about archaeological method, practice and drawing, excavation techniques and pottery cleaning. Classes will include the reading of selected literary texts and inscriptions on the history of Messenia.

Scheduled fieldtrips will take students to sites of great archaeological and historical importance such as Ancient Sparta, Ancient Messene, Ancient Olympia and the Messenian Archaeological Museum.

HOSTING OF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS IN GREECE

HERC assists College and University faculty members interested in leading short-term study abroad programs in Greece by providing:

- **Academic Planning/Advising** for deriving maximum benefit from an academic course. We work closely with faculty and Study Abroad Offices to provide itinerary options and opportunities to fully satisfy the academic aspects of the proposed course. Our staff is qualified in a diverse number of Classical and Greek Civilization / Culture subjects.

- **Accommodation** throughout the program and **transportation** during field trips.

- **Orientation activities** to familiarize faculty and students with Greek society and lifestyle and inform them on national current affairs.

- Upon request, **on-site instruction** by academic experts and/or **staff assistance**.

- **Classroom facilities** located at the historic center of Athens, at the foot of the Athens Acropolis.

- **Health & support services** to students.

- Organization of **co/extra curricular events**.