Participants are introduced to the study of Greek inscriptions from the Archaic Period to the Roman times with an emphasis on the inscriptions of the Aegean Islands. Students have the opportunity to become familiar with the nature of epigraphic documents, with the expertise required in the field of Greek epigraphy and will understand how inscriptions are invaluable documents for the knowledge of Ancient History. The course has a strong on-site element, studying and copying the stones that record ancient Greek inscriptions. A prior knowledge of Ancient Greek is strongly recommended. Instructors: Dr. Angelos P. Matthaiou (Greek Epigraphic Society), Prof. Nikolas Papazarkadas (UC Berkeley), et al.

July 25 - August 7, 2021

Amyklaion Excavation

Participation in the excavation at the Sanctuary of Apollo Amyklaios at Sparta (Laconia, Greece). The Amyklaion, with its monumental Throne of Apollo, constituted the most prominent sanctuary in ancient Laconia and one of the most important Spartan religious and civic centers. Current excavations on the site started in 2005 and have brought to light numerous significant finds. Students will experience the entire excavation procedure, including excavation, archaeological method and practice, on site documentation, recordkeeping, archaeological drawing, pottery cleaning and sorting, describing and cataloguing artifacts. Classes include fieldtrips, lectures on the history and archaeology of Sparta and the reading of selected literary texts on Sparta.
Jews and Early Christians in the Graeco-Roman World

The course examines 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 take place in three locations that played a central role to both communities. Emphasis is 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 include Jewish, Christian and Pagan authors. Instructor: Sokrates Koursoumis (Greek Ministry of Culture).

ANCIENT THRORIA EXCAVATION

Participation in the excavation of the Ancient city of Thouria near Kalamata (Messenia, Greece). A favorite of students from around the world, the program started in 2011 and is 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. The excavations at the Classical-Hellenistic site began in 2007 and have brought to light significant remains of public and sacred buildings. Students will work at the excavation and learn about archaeological method, practice and drawing, excavation techniques and pottery cleaning. Classes include the reading of selected literary texts and inscriptions on the history of Messenia and fieldtrips.

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