

**Potential changes in light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic**

Please note that information regarding teaching, learning and assessment in this module handbook endeavours to be as accurate as possible. However, in light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the changeable nature of the situation and the possibility of updates in government guidance, there may need to be changes during the course of the year. UCL will keep current students updated of any changes to teaching, learning and assessment on the [Students' webpages](#). This also includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which may help you with any queries that you may have.

**ARCL0138: The Mediterranean: Human interaction from Prehistory to Ancient Colonialism**

2020-21, Term 1

MA module  
15 credits

Co-ordinators:

Corinna Riva, [c.riva@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.riva@ucl.ac.uk), Office 406, Online office hours by appointment

Borja Legarra Herrero, [b.legarra@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.legarra@ucl.ac.uk), Office 106, Online office hours by appointment



Please refer to the online IoA Student Handbook (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-student-handbook>) and IoA Study Skills Guide (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-study-skills-guide>) for instructions on coursework submission, IoA referencing guidelines and marking criteria, as well as UCL policies on penalties for late submission.

## 1. MODULE OVERVIEW

### Module description

The module is intended to offer students a detailed knowledge of the prehistory and Iron Age (c. 6000-450 BC) in the Mediterranean region. It is meant to complement other modules in the archaeology of the Mediterranean, but it can also stand on its own to provide advanced training on the archaeology of Mediterranean prehistory and Iron Age. The study region encompasses all areas facing the Mediterranean basin although particular attention will be devoted to those areas that are closest to the teachers' research. The structure of the module will revolve around key topics for the study region as well as themes that have recently come onto the research agenda of Mediterranean archaeology. Students will be able to explore these themes through a range of different forms of material culture, so this module should be of interest to students in the MA Archaeology and MA in the Archaeology and Heritage of Egypt and the Middle East.

### Module Aims

The module is intended to offer students an advanced knowledge of the Mediterranean region from *circa* 6000 BC to *circa* 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. The study region encompasses all areas facing the Mediterranean basin, but the module will focus on selected Mediterranean regions.

The aims of the module are:

- To provide an advanced knowledge in the archaeology of the Mediterranean region in prehistory and the Iron Age, broadly conceived
- To instruct students in critical analysis of current research on the study region (problems, method and theory, quality of data)
- To engage students with the material and resources related to the study region
- To stimulate students to work across regional boundaries and formulate sophisticated approaches to culture contact

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module students should be able to demonstrate/have developed:

- Analysis and presentation of complex arguments and theories about aspects of the subject
- Ability to compare and analyse data and material across regional and subject-specific boundaries
- Application of acquired knowledge to individual sites and bodies of material
- Written and oral presentation skills

### Methods of Assessment

This course is assessed by means of two essays: essay 1 (1,500-word limit) counts 25% towards the final mark of the course; essay 2 (2,500-word limit) counts 75%.

### Communications

- **Moodle is the main hub** for this course.
- Important information will be posted by staff in the **Announcements section of the Moodle page** and you will automatically receive an email notification for these.
- Please post any general queries relating to module content, assessments and administration **in the MS Teams Module forum** ([Link to the Teams forum](#)) (or via email if you prefer). The forum will be checked regularly.

- For personal queries, please contact the co-ordinators by email.

### Week-by-week summary

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturers
1	6 Oct Tu 9-11	1. How we understand the prehistoric and Iron Age Mediterranean: from world-system theory and connectivity to house societies	CR & BLH
2	13 Oct Tu 9-11	2. Transition and change: timescales and deep history	CR & BLH
3	20 Oct Tu 9-11	3. Urbanisation, urbanism and settlement change across landscapes	CR & BLH
4	27 Oct Tu 9-11	4. Trade and exchange to Iron Age colonialism	CR & BLH
5	3 Nov Tu 9-11	5. Agricultural production and Iron Age economies	CR & BLH
6	10 Nov: READING WEEK		
7	17 Nov Tu 9-11	6. Household and food ways, habitus and commensality	CR & BLH
8	24 Nov Tu 9-11	7. Craftsmen, technology and innovation	CR & BLH
9	1 Dec Tu 9-11	8. Social inequality, hierarchy, power and the state	CR & BLH
10	8 Dec Tu 9-11	9. The archaeology of cult and ritual	CR & BLH
11	15 Dec Tu 9-11	10. Identity politics: from Orientalizing to Hellenisation and wrapping up	CR & BLH

Lecturers (or other contributors): Corinna Riva (CR), Borja Legarra Herrero (BHL)

### Weekly Module Plan

The module is live-taught through seminars on weekly topics, led by the lecturer, in order to reflect on set pre-class activities. Students will be required to either undertake set readings and/or complete pre-class activities in order to be able to actively participate in the seminar; additionally, Students will present a specific site/image/concept of their choice to boost live discussion. These activities will be posted on Moodle a week in advance.

### Workload

This is a 15-credit module which equates to 150 hours of learning time including session preparation, background reading, and researching and writing your assignments. With that in mind you should expect to organise your time in roughly this way:

20 hours	Staff-led teaching sessions (lectures, seminars, tutorials, discussion-board sessions)
60 hours	Self-guided session preparation (reading, listening, note-taking and online activities), about 6 hours a week
20 hours	Reading for, and writing 1 <sup>st</sup> essay
50 hours	Reading for, and writing, 2 <sup>nd</sup> essay

## 2. ASSESSMENT

Each assignment and possible approaches to it will be discussed in class, in advance of the submission deadline. If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should discuss this with the Module Co-ordinator in advance (via office hours or class Moodle forum). You will receive feedback on your written coursework via Moodle, and have the opportunity to discuss your marks and feedback with the co-ordinator in their office hours.

For more details see the 'Assessment' section on Moodle. The [IoA marking criteria](#) can be found in the IoA Student Handbook (Section 12- information on assessment) and the [IoA Study Skills Guide](#) provides useful guidance on writing different types of assignment. **Penalties for late submission:** see [UCL guidance on penalties \(Academic Manual 3.12\)](#).

**Assessment 1: Essay 1: a critique (1,500-word limit)**

Summarise and critically review one of the following:

1. Horden, P. and N. Purcell 2000. *The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History*. Oxford and Malden: Blackwell. Introduction and Chapter 1
2. Broodbank, C. 2013. *The Making of the Middle Sea: A History of the Mediterranean from the Beginning to the Emergence of the Classical World*. London and New York: Thames and Hudson and Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.
3. Sherratt, A.G. 1993. What Would a Bronze-Age World System Look Like? Relations between temperate Europe and the Mediterranean in later Prehistory. *Journal of European Archaeology* 1 (2),1-58.

You may wish to address the following issues in your review:

- a. Is the Mediterranean defensible and constructive as a unit of analysis for archaeologists in the periods they cover?
- b. What are the challenges posed, and opportunities offered, by the author(s)' approach to the study of the Mediterranean as a unit of analysis?

**Deadline:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

**Assessment 2: Essay 2: standard essay (2,500-word limit)**

The essay question is to be chosen by the student with the guidance and approval of the Module Co-ordinators; if you are stuck for ideas go back to the pre-recorded lectures and/or see the seminar topics' synopses.

**Deadline:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**3. Resources and Preparation for Class****Preparation for class**

You are expected to read the **two to three essential readings as well as watching the pre-recorded lectures and completing any online activities on Moodle** each week. Completing the readings is essential for your effective participation in the activities and discussions that we will do, and it will greatly enhance your understanding of the material covered. **Further readings are provided via the online-reading list** for you to get a sense of the range of current work on a given topic and for you to draw upon for your assessments.

**Online reading list:** <https://rl.talis.com/3/ucl/lists/B66D5531-25FF-213E-846C-999A33352070.html?lang=es-ES> (being updated).

**Recommended basic texts and online resources**

**Broodbank C.** 2013 *The Making of the Middle Sea*. [IoA: Issue Desk and DAG 100 BRO – several copies]

Other general books and syntheses that are key to this module:

**P. van Dommelen and B. Knapp** (eds) 2014 *The Cambridge prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean*. Cambridge [online]

**Haggis D. and C. Antonaccio** (eds) 2015 *Classical Archaeology in Context. Theory and Practice in Excavation in the Greek World*. De Gruyter [online]

**Harris W. V.** 2005 (ed.) *Rethinking the Mediterranean* 45-63, Oxford UP [online]

**Horden, P. and Purcell, N.** 2000 *The Corrupting Sea. A Study of Mediterranean History*. Oxford: Blackwell  
INST ARCH Issue desk HOR 6; DAG 200 HOR; ANC HIST A 5 HOR; ANTHROPOLOGY LX 21 HOR;  
GEOGRAPHY LX60 HOR.

**Lichtenberger, A. and von Räden, C.** (eds.). 2015. *Multiple Mediterranean Realities: current approaches to spaces, resources, and connectivities* (Mittelmeerstudien 6). Paderborn: Fink Wilhelm – Ferdinand Schöningh. (on order).

#### Geography, environment and biogeography:

**Roberts, N. Ralph Fyfe, Stephen Shennan, Andrew Bevan, Jessie Woodbridge and Alessio Palmisano** (eds.) 2019. Special Issue: Special Issue: The changing face of the Mediterranean: Land cover, demography and environmental change. *The Holocene* 29.5

**Halstead, P.** 2014. *Two Oxen Ahead: Pre-mechanized farming in the Mediterranean*. Wiley-Blackwell.  
INST ARCH & online

**Walsh, K.** 2014. *The archaeology of Mediterranean Landscapes: human-environment interaction from the Neolithic to the Roman period*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. INST ARCH DAG 100 WAL

#### 4. Syllabus

Refer to the Online Reading List of this course for Recommended Reading. For even more, period-specific reading please see Reading Lists for the Iron Age and Prehistory available on Moodle; this will be useful in the preparation of your second assessment.

**Seminar 1** How we understand the prehistoric and Iron Age Mediterranean: from world-system theory and connectivity to house societies

This first session will introduce the module, its topics and objectives, and then discussion will concentrate on various approaches in the study of the archaeology of the prehistoric and Iron Age Mediterranean, past and present. We shall start with the following key question: can we think of the study region as a unit of analysis in its own right? And if so, in what ways? What are the challenges of doing so? What opportunities? Teasing out different approaches will also invite us to consider previous scholarship and the extent to which that scholarship and its weighting upon an East-centric focus has impacted upon current views of the study region (cf. centre-periphery thinking). In this regard, we will also concentrate on a paradigm-shifting moment, marked by the publication of the *Corrupting Sea* (2000), that has led us to think of the Mediterranean in terms of interaction and connectivity. Last but not least, we shall consider the different types of sources we use in the archaeology of the Mediterranean.

#### Essential

**González –Ruibal A. and M. Ruiz-Gálvez** 2016 House societies in the Ancient Mediterranean (2000-500 BC), *Journal of World Prehistory* 29.4, 383-437 [online]

**Morris I.** 2003 Mediterraneanization in *Mediterranean Historical Review* 18(2): 30-55 [online]

**Purcell, N.** (2003). The boundless sea of unlikeness? On defining the Mediterranean. *Mediterranean Historical Review*, 18(2), 9-29.

**Broodbank C.** 2017 The transmitting sea: a Mediterranean perspective, in E. Kiriati and C. Knappett (eds) *Human mobility and technological transfer in the prehistoric Mediterranean*, Ch. 2 [online]

**Seminar 2** Transition and change: timescales and deep history

Given the long-term chronological span of the course, we need to reflect on time, its scale both in its conceptual and analytical frameworks (e.g. micro-scale vs macro-scale analysis) and how we address transition, phases of change and periodisation. Why, for example, do we distinguish between a prehistory and an Iron Age? What problems does such a periodisation pose? Or, to take a more specific example, why does the end of the Bronze Age mark so much of our understanding of this long-term chronological span? Does/should it apply to the entire Mediterranean region? Other questions regard recent scientific dating and analysis, which have led us to debate on our traditional framework for periodisation.

### Essential

**Knapp, A. B. & Manning, S. W.** (2016). Crisis in Context: The End of the Late Bronze Age in the Eastern Mediterranean. *American Journal of Archaeology*, 120(1), 99-149 [online]

**Kotsonas, A.** 2016. Politics of Periodization and the Archaeology of Early Greece. *American Journal of Archaeology*, 120(2), 239-270 [online]

**Middleton, G.D.** 2012 Nothing Lasts Forever: Environmental Discourses on the Collapse of Past Societies *Journal of Archaeological Research* 20: 257–307 [online]

Sherratt, A.G. 1993. 'What would a Bronze-Age world system look like? Relations between temperate Europe and the Mediterranean in later prehistory', *Journal of European Archaeology* 1: 1-57. [online]

**Knappett, C., Rivers, R. and Evans, T.** 2011. The Theran eruption and Minoan palatial collapse: new interpretations gained from modelling the maritime network. *Antiquity* 85:1008-23 [online]

<b>Seminar 3</b> Urbanisation, urbanism and settlement change across landscapes
---

The Iron Age is almost by definition the urbanising phase of the Mediterranean, but is it correct to characterise it as such given that we have urban settlements in earlier phases as well? One question to address, therefore, is whether cities, for want of a better phrase, are inherently different at different phases of our time span under consideration, and the extent to which certain phenomena, visible in our (textual) sources (e.g. the Greek *polis* and its related *apoikiai*), too often colour too strongly our definitions of our analytical categories. What about settlements more broadly? Is it useful to give such prominence to the urban category at the expense of other non-urban settlements? Do we not risk, in doing so, seeing urbanism as yet another dimension to define a centre vis-à-vis a periphery? Do we not risk imposing an evolutionistic perspective upon our evidence? In order to avoid those risks, we may want to ask what conditions led to the formation of what we call cities or towns, or, in fact, whether we should dispense of our focus on the urban form altogether and think of settlement forms more broadly, and thus ask questions on the variety of causal factors leading to the formation of towns and the relations between them and their surrounding regions, including those which are distinguished by the lack of settlements we call towns. And what does a landscape perspective do to help us understand urbanisation and urbanism? Last but not least, what about urban growth?

### Essential

**Riva C.** 2014 Connectivity beyond the urban community in Central Italy in A. B. Knapp and P. van Dommelen (eds) *The Cambridge Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean*, 437-453 [IoA: Issue Desk and online]

**Gaydarska, B.** (2016) The City Is Dead! Long Live the City!, *Norwegian Archaeological Review*, 49:1, 40-57 [online]

**Vlassopoulos K.** 2007 Between East and West: The Greek Poleis as Part of a World-System in *Ancient West and East* 6, 91–111 [online]

**Whitelaw, TM**, 2017. In *The development and character of urban communities in Prehistoric Crete in their regional context: a preliminary study*. Oxford University Press, pp. In: Letesson, Q and Knappett, C, (eds.) *Minoan Architecture and Urbanism: New Perspectives on an Ancient Built Environment*. (pp. 114–180). Oxford University Press: Oxford, United Kingdom [online]

#### **Seminar 4** Trade and exchange to Iron Age colonialism

In this and next seminar we shall focus on the economic systems of our study region, which we will break down into production, redistribution and consumption. We will consider the former in the next seminar and focus instead upon these two latter this week. In particular, we shall consider the relationship between redistribution and consumption, the materialisation of exchange, in both materials and specific types of sites, and the mobility of people and goods, the why and how the latter moved and the consequences of this mobility. Last but not least, we will ask why consumption, a term so ubiquitous in recent studies on exchange, has become so popular in studies on colonialism, a specific instance of Iron Age mobility (to be minimalist!).

#### **Essential**

**Bevan A.** 2014 Mediterranean containerization, *Current Anthropology* 55, 37-418 [online]

**Gailledrat E.** 2015 New perspective on *emporía* in the Western Mediterranean: Greeks, Etruscans and native populations at the mouth of the Lez (Hérault, France) during the sixth-fifth centuries BC in *JMA* 28.1, 23-50 [online]

**Ruiz-Gálvez, M.** 2015. Before ‘the Gates of Tartessos’: Indigenous Knowledge and Exchange Networks in the Late Bronze Age Far West. In A. Bernard Knapp and Peter van Dommelen (eds.) *The Cambridge Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean*, 196-214. The Cambridge Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [online]

**Sherratt, S.** 2010: The Aegean and the Wider World: Some Thoughts on a World-Systems Perspective. In Parkinson, W.A. & Galaty, M.L. (eds.), *Archaic State Interaction. The Eastern Mediterranean in the Bronze Age*. (School for Advanced Research.)

#### **Seminar 5** Agricultural production, prehistoric and Iron Age economies

Societies of the prehistoric and Iron Age Mediterranean were first and foremost agrarian societies; we therefore need to think about their economy in relation to agricultural production and put the latter at the centre of that economy in order to understand better the nature of trade that we will have explored in the previous seminar. Questions for our discussion include: 1) the nature of this agrarian economy and how we should approach the evidence: do modern economic theories apply? If so, how? 2) how much of what we know from later Greek literary sources about production is applicable to the non-Greek and earlier Mediterranean and hence how different types of evidence measure up; 3) what the transport amphora record tells us; 3) the role of ethnoarchaeology for our understanding of production; 4) How we understand value in relation to (food) production and more generally, in commodity exchange.

#### **Essential**

**Carter J. C., S. M. Thompson and J. Trelogan** 2009 Dividing the Chora, in F. Kolb (ed.) *Chora und Polis*, 127-146 [online]

**Marín-Aguilera B.** 2019 Weaving rural economies: textile production and societal complexity in Iron Age south-western Iberia, *World Archaeology*, 51:2, 226-251, DOI: 10.1080/00438243.2019.1627064

**Riva C.** 2017 Wine production and exchange and the value of wine consumption in 6<sup>th</sup>-century-BC Etruria, in *JMA* 30.2, 237-261 [online]

**Langgut, D., Cheddadi, R., Carrión, J. S., Cavanagh, M., Colombaroli, D., Eastwood, W. J., ... Woodbridge, J.** (2019). The origin and spread of olive cultivation in the Mediterranean Basin: The fossil pollen evidence. *The Holocene*, 29(5), 902–922 [online]

**Halstead, P.** 1989 The economy has a normal surplus: economic stability and social change among early farming communities of Thessaly, Greece. In P. Halstead & J. O'Shea (Eds.), *Bad year economies: cultural responses to risk and uncertainty* (pp. 68-80).

**Nitsch, E., Andreou, S., Creuzieux, A., Gardeisen, A., Halstead, P., Isaakidou, V., Karathanou, A., Kotsachristou, D., Nikolaidou, D., Papanthimou, A., Petridou, C., Triantaphyllou, S., Valamoti, S., Vasileiadou A. & Amy Bogaard** (2017) A bottom-up view of food surplus: using stable carbon and nitrogen isotope analysis to investigate agricultural strategies and diet at Bronze Age Archontiko and Thessaloniki Toumba, northern Greece, *World Archaeology*, 49:1, 105-137 [online]

### Seminar 6 Household and food ways, habitus and commensality

From production to foodways: food consumption and household contexts have recently come to the fore in the Mediterranean where scholars are shifting attention from tombs to domestic contexts. This key shift in recent research has both methodological and theoretical reasons: on the one hand, analytical scientific methods such as organic residue analysis or isotope analysis are providing us with more data to work with; on the other, poststructuralist approaches and theories of practice have finally had an impact upon the Mediterranean archaeology, particularly for the central-west Mediterranean. The consequence of this is that for the first time we are able to analyse the whole semantic and symbolic field of eating, from staple food to feasting and answer the question of why commensality and households are such a fruitful field of study for a social history of the Mediterranean.

#### Essential

**Dietler M.** 2012 Feasting and fasting in T. Insoll (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Ritual and Religion* [online]

**López-Bertran M. and J. Vives-Ferrándiz** 2015 Miniatures from domestic contexts in Iron Age Iberia, *World Archaeology*, 47:1, 80-93 [online]

**Marín-Aguilera B.** 2018 Inhabiting domestic space: becoming different in the Early Iron Age Western Mediterranean, *JMA* 31.1, 77-100 [online]

**Vaiglova, Petra, Paul Halstead, Maria Pappa, Sevi Triantaphyllou, Sultana M. Valamoti, Jane Evans, Rebecca Fraser, Panagiotis Karkanas, Andrea Kay, Julia Lee-Thorp, and Amy Bogaard.** 2018. Of cattle and feasts: Multi-isotope investigation of animal husbandry and communal feasting at Neolithic Makriyalos, northern Greece. *PLoS One* 13.6 [online]

**Sánchez Romero, R. M. and Cid López, R.** 2018 Motherhood and infancies: archaeological and historical approaches in Sánchez Romero, M. and Cid Lopez, R. (eds) *Motherhood and Infancies in the Mediterranean in Antiquity*. Oxbow Books [online]

### Seminar 7 Craftsmen, technology and innovation

By now we will have already encountered technology and change in one form or another but not in regards to specific aspects of materials, processes of transmission and innovation. We will look at all of this here: inevitably the lion's share of attention in this regard has been paid to ceramic and

metallurgical technology but over the last ten years new analytical methods have shifted our attention onto other materials (most prominently textiles). We will here consider not simply what we can learn from scientific analysis of materials but also the social and cultural context of technological transmission and innovation. The adoption of the alphabet as a technological innovation and its consequences will also be examined.

### Essential

**Gosselain O. P.** 2012 Technology in T. Insoll (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Ritual and Religion* [online]

**Riva C.** 2010 Ingenious Inventions: Welding Ethnicities East and West in S. Hales & T. Hodos (eds) *Material culture and social identities in the ancient world*. Cambridge, 79-113 [IoA: YATES A 99 HAL – ask me for pdf]

**Ferrara, S.** 2016. Writing Away: Mobility and Versatility Of Scribes at the End of the Bronze Age, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, issue 35(3), 227-245 [online]

**Knappet, Carl.** 2016. Resisting Innovation? Learning, Cultural Evolution and the Potter's Wheel in the Mediterranean Bronze Age. *Cultural Phylogenetics: Concepts and Applications in Archaeology*, Mendoza Straffon, Larissa, ed. *Interdisciplinary Evolution Research 4*, Cham: Springer International Publishing. ISBN 978-3-319-25926-0 (print) and ISBN 978-3-319-25928-4 (eBook). p. 97-11 [online]

<b>Seminar 8</b> Social inequality, hierarchy, power and the state
--

Power takes many different forms and is manifested in as many different ways: what all its forms have in common is unequal access to opportunities, from resources, wealth and knowledge, to participation in decision-making and the state. Most societies in the study region are what prehistorians call complex societies where hierarchy drives the social and political space and the power to manoeuvre oneself in that space that is, more often than not, highly unstable and fluid. In this seminar, we shall discuss what power is in these societies, what forms it takes, how it is manifested and, as far as we can tell, how it is manipulated and how it functions vis-à-vis the state. We will look at multiple scales both in respect to the data we use to understand power (from burials to landscape evidence) and to the level of details we are able to capture from those data, which is very uneven across different regions.

### Essential

**Cuozzo M.** 2014 The violence of symbols: ideologies, identity and cultural interaction in Central Italian cemeteries in P. van Dommelen and B. Knapp (eds) *The Cambridge prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean*. Cambridge, 585-604 [online]

**Dupluy A.** 2018 citizenship as performance, in A. Dupluy and R. W. Brock (eds) *Defining citizenship in Archaic Greece*. Oxford, Ch. 10 [online]

**Marin-Aguilera B.** 2015 Borderlands in the making: deterritorialisation in South Iberia (9<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC), *Complutum* 26.1, 189-203 [online]

**Legarra Herrero, B.** 2016. An elite-infested sea: Interaction and change in Mediterranean paradigms. In Molloy, B. (ed.) 'Of Odysseys and Oddities': Scales and modes of interaction between prehistoric Aegean societies and their neighbours. *Sheffield Studies in Aegean Archaeology* 10. Oxbow Books. 25-52

**Leppard, T.P.** 2019. 'Social Complexity and Social Inequality in the Prehistoric Mediterranean'. *Current Anthropology* 60, 283-308 [online]

<b>Seminar 9</b> The archaeology of cult and ritual
---

This seminar aims to discuss cult practices with specific reference to the way in which the religious phenomena can illuminate issues such as political and social change, territoriality and cultural contact. Due to the vastness both in space and time of the area under scrutiny, it is patent that ancient Mediterranean cult incorporated a huge array of manifestations, ranging from the veneration of anthropomorphic deities to modest ceremonies performed in rural locales almost removed from the intense flow of goods and ideas. The ritual itself encompassed a wide range of practices, including animal sacrifice, food consumption and the consecration of offerings to the deity, all of them performed with varying intensity, meaning and modalities at different sites. In this variety lay the importance of cult as the focal axis upon which different approaches to the sacred from different social groups converged. As such, ritual practice and its variability became a means to define the social identity of the worshippers and to negotiate, play out and define meaningful relationships between humans and objects, people and space (e.g. sacred vs. profane) and individuals of different status, gender, age and cultural identity.

**Essential**

**López-Bertran M.** 2016 Exploring Past Ontologies: Bodies, Jugs and Figurines from the Phoenician-Punic Western Mediterranean, *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 26.3, 413-428 [online]

**Marconi C.** 2004 Kosmos. The imagery of the Archaic Greek temple in *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 45, 211-224 [online]

**Busacca, G.** 2017. Places of encounter: Relational ontologies, animal depiction and ritual performance at göbekli tepe. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, 27(2), 313-330 [online]

**Hodder, I.** 2019. Religion as a Factor in the Development of Settled Life. Violence and the Sacred in the Ancient Near East: Girardian Conversation at Çatalhöyük, Hodder, Ian, ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press p. 235-247 [online]

On theory:

**Osborne R.** 2004 Hoards, Votives, Offerings: The Archaeology of the Dedicated Object, in *World Archaeology*, 36, 1, 1-10 [online]

**Rüpke J.** 2015 Religious agency, identity, and communication: reflections on history and theory of religion, in *Religion* 45.3, 344-366 [online]- a new theory of religion as an intersubjective phenomenon.

<b>Seminar 10</b> Identity politics: from Orientalizing to Hellenisation
--

In this wrapping up session, we will have a Q&A on anything discussed throughout the module, including the essay topics chosen by the students, but we will also spend some time to treat the most ubiquitous topic of recent debates in Mediterranean archaeology, namely identity, whether cultural, political, ethnic, individual or collective, and in relation to phenomena such as Orientalization, Minoanisation or Hellenisation.

**Essential**

**Izzet, V.** 2005 The mirror of Theopompus: Etruscan identity and Greek myth, *PBSR* LXXIII, 1-22 [online]

**Purcell N.** 2006 Orientalizing: Five Historical Questions in C. Riva and N. Vella (eds.) *Debating Orientalization: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Change in the Ancient Mediterranean*. London: Equinox, 21-30 [IoA: TC 3242 and DAG 100 RIV]

**Legarra Herrero, B.**, 2009. THE MINOAN FALLACY: CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND MORTUARY BEHAVIOUR ON CRETE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BRONZE AGE. *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, 28(1), pp.29–57 [online]