

Short description of graduate courses, spring semester of academic year 2019-2020

PSP: ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN WORLD: HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Course: AMK-KAP147 *Hellenistic and Roman pottery in votive or burial contexts*

Lecturer: **Nikolas Dimakis, Academic Scholar**

Summary

Even though at death identity and social status may undergo major changes, by studying funerary customs we can greatly gain in the understanding of a community's social structure, distribution of wealth and property, degree of flexibility or divisiveness in the apportionment of power. With its great regional diversity and variety of community forms and networks, ancient Greece offers a unique context for exploring, through the burial evidence, how communities developed.

The seminar aims for students to explore novel thematic and interdisciplinary ways of analysis (e.g. temporal, regional, intra- or inter-regional, local, structural) in which funerary contexts provide insights on individuals, social groups and communities. Themes that will be addressed include issues of territoriality, the reconstruction of social roles of particular groups of people (e.g. children, women, the elderly, elite or non-elite individuals), and the impact that major historical events (e.g. war, famine, urbanization, synoecism) may have had on the way individuals or specific groups of individuals treated their dead. Emphasis will be given on burial offerings, especially on vase offerings. The latter with their degree of preservation, quality of making, but also with their allocation in specific places in the grave in relation to the deceased or to themselves, they usually provide the only preserved testimony of the ritual performed at the time of burial.

Selected Bibliography

Theory on the archaeology of death and burial

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Death and burial in the Greek World

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PSP: BYZANTINE AND MEDIEVAL STUDIES

Course: *The Mediterranean, 1300-1600: change, continuity, transitions*

Lecturer: **Eleni Sakellariou, Assistant Professor**

Summary

This seminar course will discuss aspects of Mediterranean history in the transition from the late Middle Ages to the Early Modern Period. We will take as our starting point the hierarchy of major Mediterranean ports, and their pivotal role in creating a unified space of economic, political and cultural exchange as the Middle Ages waned. But together with the Middle Ages, the political and economic importance of the Mediterranean also declined, and the challenge is to understand what caused this change in the Early Modern Period. To achieve this, we will discuss the interaction of the traditional Mediterranean centres of economic prosperity and political power with the Empires of the time and with other European countries. We will place the Mediterranean in the wider context of world economic developments, but also of ecological change (this is a period of significant climate change, known as the Little Ice Age). Students will also be invited to reflect upon the Mediterranean as a destination for travellers, from pilgrims, merchants and mercenaries in the Middle Ages, to the northern European elites in the age of the “Grand Tour”, to mass tourism in the 20th century. The aim is to provide students with a key to understanding the passage of the Mediterranean into modern times.