

CLAS 3M24/ CLAS 5P80: Study Tour to Mediterranean Lands (Turkey)

Tentative course dates: May 7-27, 2013

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Course Overview: The study tour introduces students to the major monuments of Turkey in Istanbul, Cappadocia, and the Mediterranean and Aegean coasts. Students visit sites and museums that reflect the vast cultural landscape of Turkey from the Neolithic Period to the present day, with particular attention devoted to Greco-Roman antiquity. The churches, mosques and museums of Byzantine and Ottoman Turkey form a highlight of our stay in Istanbul. Ancient sites to be visited include: Ephesus, Didyma, Pergamon, Troy, Bodrum (ancient Halicarnassus), Aspendos, and Çatalhöyük.

Course requirements: Each student will be responsible for delivering two formal oral presentations during the tour, based on advance research. One will take place on site (15%); the other will take place in the evening, and is designed to provide the literary, historical, artistic, cultural, or ethical background to the regions we will visit (15%). Students will select presentation topics before departing for Turkey and are expected to research the topics in advance of departure. Students taking the course for graduate credit will be expected to conduct a more extensive site tour. Other course requirements include the daily maintenance of a site journal (25%), a brief essay based on the visual experience of one of the sites we have visited (10%), and a final exam (15%). On-site and supplementary lectures will be delivered by the instructors and our Turkish guide (The Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism requires that group visits to archaeological sites are accompanied by a Turkish guide). Active attendance and participation at all sites, museum visits, and student presentations is mandatory (20%).

Required text:

McDonagh, B. 2001. *Blue Guide, Turkey*. W.W. Norton and Co. (3rd edition). Available in photocopy through Brock Bookstore. Students may also want to purchase their own travel guide to Turkey for additional information. Let's Go, Rough Guide, and Lonely Planet are all good possibilities.

The itinerary below is tentative and subject to change.

Tuesday, May 7: Depart from Toronto or Buffalo

All visitors to Turkey must obtain a tourist visa. Visas (which come in the form of a sticker for your passport) can be purchased by holders of Canadian and U.S. passports at the airport in Istanbul before you proceed through customs. Visas for Canadian passport holders cost \$60 USD or 45 Euros; visas for U.S. passport holders cost \$20 USD or 15 Euros. Please consider taking the opportunity to extend your stay for additional travel in Turkey or the Greek islands, which are easily accessible by ferry from Turkey.

Wednesday, May 8: Arrival in Istanbul

Arrive at Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul. After hotel check-in, enjoy some time at leisure until late afternoon when we will meet for an organizational meeting, welcome dinner of Turkish cuisine, and a neighborhood orientation tour.

Thursday, May 9: Istanbul

Full day of sightseeing including the ancient Hippodrome (an area that was once the center of Byzantine civic life, with as many as 100,000 zealous fans witnessing chariot races, executions, and mock battles), Sultan Ahmet Mosque (more familiarly known as the Blue Mosque because its interior gleams with magnificent paneling of blue and white 17th century Iznik tiles), the Basilica Cistern (also known as the "Sunken Palace," constructed by Justinian in 532 to supply the Byzantine Palace), Topkapi Palace (today a spectacular museum with one of the largest collections of Chinese and Japanese porcelain and the famous treasury of the Ottoman Sultans), and the famous Grand Bazaar.

Friday, May 10: Istanbul

A full day in the Bosphorus area, featuring the Spice Market, and a Bosphorus cruise by public boat of authentic city quarters located on the Asian shore of the Bosphorus Strait.

Saturday, May 11: Istanbul

Today we visit Hagia Sophia (the Church of Holy Wisdom), often described as the greatest work of Byzantine architecture. Our next stop is the Istanbul Archaeology Museum, home to the Alexander Sarcophagus, among other treasures of classical antiquity. After lunch, we continue to the Kariye Mosque Museum/Chora Church, built between 1316 and 1361. The spectacular gilded mosaics found in the church portray scenes from the life of Christ and the Virgin Mary, the Day of Judgement and Heaven and Hell.

Sunday, May 12: Istanbul/Cappadocia

We begin the day with a domestic flight to Kayseri. Upon arrival, we begin our bus tour of breathtaking Cappadocia, a remarkable region in Central Anatolia. We will first visit Goreme, a town marked by steep cliffs and hidden churches dating from the second half of the 9th century and later. After lunch we continue to the fortress at Uchisar, a 60 meter wonder carved out of a natural hill with a breathtaking view of all the surrounding formations.

Monday, May 13: Cappadocia

We continue to explore the underground cities and remarkable landscape of Cappadocia, visiting Paşabağ, Urğup (famed for its Tusan winery) and Avanos (famous for its pottery and carpets).

Tuesday, May 14: Cappadocia / Konya / Çatalhöyük / Beyşehir

This morning we visit a local carpet workshop to learn about this traditional Turkish craft, from silkworm cultivation to spinning, dyeing and the traditional patterns and weaving techniques. After this we depart for the town of Beyşehir via Konya. On the way we see Seljuk Caravanserai – Sultan Hani. Built between 1232-36, this caravanserai was the largest and most magnificent in Anatolia. Upon arrival in Konya (ancient Iconium), we visit Mevlana Tekke, the most famous monument in Konya and the object of pilgrimages from all over the world since it is the tomb and shrine of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, the founder of the Mevlevi Order of Whirling Dervishes. After this visit, we continue to Çatalhöyük, a Neolithic settlement housing as many as 10,000 people. Our final stop is the town of Beyşehir, home to a unique wooden mosque, Esrefoğlu Camii. In the early evening we proceed to a nearby village to experience rural Turkey.

Wednesday, May 15: Antalya

We head south to Antalya, stopping on the way at the ancient site of Aspendos (its theater, built in the 2nd century AD, held 15,000 people. Still used today for performances and festivals, the theater's galleries, stage decorations and acoustics all testify to its architect Xenon's success). In the early evening we reach Antalya (ancient Pamphylia).

Thursday, May 16: Antalya

We first visit the Archaeology Museum, which offers an exposition of statues of various Greek gods, a stunning mosaic collection from Xanthos, extraordinary findings from the Karain caves (dating back to the Paleolithic), a collection of Roman sarcophagi, as well as a comprehensive ethnographical collection. Next, we drive to Kaleici, Antalya's Old Quarter. Narrow streets, charming cafés and numerous souvenir shops bring a special charm to this part of the city. The afternoon is for exploration—of sites or perhaps a Turkish bath.

Friday, May 17: Antalya / Fethiye

En route to Fethiye we stop by the site of ancient Myra (Demre). Here, many splendidly carved rock tombs overlook the magnificent Roman theater. St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) was the bishop of this Mediterranean city during the fourth century CE and died here in 342. With a short drive from Demre we reach Çaycağız where we embark on a glass-bottom boat trip to Kekova Island. Kekova Island is also known as the “Sunken City” that faces the village of Kale and gives its name to the entire region. We arrive at Fethiye in the afternoon; above the town, called Telmessos in antiquity, are numerous Lycian rock tombs, reproducing the facades of ancient buildings and cut into the cliff face.

Saturday, May 18: Fethiye/Dalyan

In the morning we visit the famous Lycian ruins at Xanthos and Patara. Xanthos was a center of culture and commerce for the Lycians, and later for the Persians, Macedonians, Greeks, and Romans who in turn conquered the city and occupied the adjacent territory. Patara was noted in antiquity for its temple and oracle of Apollo, second only to that of Delphi. The ruins consist of a theater excavated in the northern side of a small hill, a temple on the side of the same hill, and a deep circular pit, which may have been the seat of the oracle. After lunch we visit Kayaköy, a Greek 'ghost town'. The village of about 600 houses was once inhabited by Anatolian Greeks. During the 1920s the entire population moved to Greece after the Turkish war of independence.

Sunday, May 19: Dalyan

After a free morning in Dalyan, we hike and visit the Lycian rock tombs of Dalyan and Caunos. The ancient city of Caunos dates from before 400 BC. Caunos was once a Mediterranean port city but over the centuries the silt from the Dalyan River choked the harbor and today the town lies several kilometers from the sea.

Monday, May 20: Dalyan / Knidos / Bodrum

We depart by bus from Dalyan for Bodrum, stopping at Burgaz and Knidos en route. After founding a settlement around 800 BC at Burgaz (the site of ongoing land and harbor excavations conducted by Middle East Technical University and Brock University), the Knidians moved around 360 BC to a new city on the tip of the Datca Peninsula. Near the city wall the two stone bases of the round temple are located, which in ancient times may have housed the famous Aphrodite statue sculptured by Praxiteles. From Knidos, we head to Bodrum, which lies at the junction of the Aegean and the Mediterranean Seas.

Tuesday, May 21: Bodrum

The Crusader Castle of St. Peter dominates the town of Bodrum. Built by the Knights of St. John, the castle houses the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology. After spending the morning in the museum, we will have the afternoon at leisure to explore Bodrum and the Bodrum peninsula, including the site of the Mausoleum, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Wednesday, May 22: Bodrum/Aphrodisias

Today we enjoy a day-trip to Aphrodisias, which was founded in the fifth century BC and flourished under the Roman Empire. Famous for its sanctuary of Aphrodite, the city's patron goddess, Aphrodisias enjoyed a long and prosperous existence from the first century B.C. through the sixth century A.D. Today, many of the city's ancient monuments remain standing, and excavations have unearthed numerous fine marble statues and other artifacts.

Thursday, May 23: Bodrum/Kuşadası/ Didyma

We leave Bodrum and travel to Kuşadası. En route, we visit Didyma with its ruins of the famous Temple of Apollo, a superb example of Hellenistic theatrical architecture. Even before the arrival of the Ionians, Didyma was a holy place and its oracle was much feared. Persian King Xerxes destroyed the temple in 480 BC and looted many of the statues and also removed its vast treasury which owed its magnitude to the generosity of Croesus, King of Lydia. Alexander the Great decided to rebuild the temple after his victory over the Persians, but the temple was still incomplete under the Romans, probably on account of its enormous dimensions.

Friday, May 24: Kusadasi / Ephesus sites / Kusadasi

A full day sightseeing tour of the Ephesus area. Today Ephesus is perhaps the world's best-preserved ancient city and its ruins attract visitors from across the globe. In Roman times, Ephesus was the provincial capital of Asia, with a population of 250,000 at its height. The most significant relic of the site is the immense amphitheater that holds 24,000 people and is still used today. Walking along the Sacred Way, we see the Temple of Hadrian and the Library of Celsus, which held 12,000 ancient scrolls which

were stored in niches around the walls. We make a stop at the remains of the Temple of Artemis, another wonder of the ancient world, during our visit to Ephesus.

Saturday, May 25: Kusadasi / Pergamum / Çanakkale

Pergamum was founded by colonists on the Aegean coast of Anatolia at the site of the present-day city of Bergama. We visit the magnificent Acropolis, which contains the ruins of Pergamum's acclaimed 200,000-volume library, so large it challenged the world's greatest library in Alexandria. Along with the library, the Acropolis boasts a great theater seating 10,000 and the marble-columned Temple of Trojan. Below the theater lie the ruins of the Temple of Dionysus along with the Altar of Zeus in a marvelous setting shaded by evergreen trees. Next we visit the Asklepion, a sanctuary and healing center built in the name of the god of healing, Asklepios. After Pergamum, we continue to Çanakkale for a final group dinner at our hotel (and a final exam!).

Sunday, May 26: Çanakkale / Istanbul

We drive to the site of Troy, once believed to exist only in Homer's epic poem. Discovered by Heinrich Schliemann in the 1870s, the site has since been excavated and reveals remnants of nine civilizations dating back 5,000 years. After Troy we continue to the shore of Dardanelles Strait, and then to the battlefields of Gallipoli, where in 1915 Allied troops faced the Turkish army led by Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal, also known as Ataturk, the man who later became the leader of modern Turkey. Next we will continue to Istanbul, arriving in the early evening.

Monday, May 27: Return home

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Ataturk International Airport for return flight.

Tentative cost breakdown (these numbers are approximate and subject to change)

Brock course fees: \$1150 per credit (based on spring 2012 fees)

Airfare: currently about \$800 from Buffalo to Istanbul; \$1200 from Toronto-Istanbul + Turkish entry visa \$60

Fees for in-country travel, meals, admissions: \$3200. This fee includes: 1 domestic flight (Istanbul-Kayseri); 36 meals (20 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 9 dinners); services of a professional tour guide and his/her accommodations, transportation, meal expenses; all tipping for guides, drivers and hotel porters; modern, spacious, air-conditioned, vehicle for land transportation; admission fees to all sights and museums included in the itinerary; parking, ferry, tolls; driver's meals and accommodation. Accommodation to be provided in the following hotels or ones of similar quality and location: Istanbul (Orka Royal Hotel) Cappadocia (Suhan Hotel), Beyşehir (village house), Antalya (Adonis Hotel), Fethiye (Alesta Yacht Hotel), Dalyan Resort, Bodrum (Marina Majesty Hotel), Kuşadasi (Grand Onder Hotel) Çanakkale (Kolin Hotel).

Bursaries are available through Student Financial Aid Services (SAFA) to students with demonstrated financial need; OSAP funding can be extended to cover you during the spring term. Please see: <http://www.brocku.ca/safa/awards> for awards open to various majors, some explicitly designated for Study Tour participants. Additionally, travel grants and awards are offered through the Niagara Peninsula Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (<http://brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/classics/AIA-Niagara>), and the Brock University Archaeological Society (<http://brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/classics/archaeological-society>)