COURSE DESCRIPTION
“*The Bronze Age Aegean and its Larger Mediterranean Context*”
Within this seminar we will discuss the Bronze Age Aegean and its connections and interactions with other major powers within the larger Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds during the second millennium BCE, invoking and utilizing archaeology, ancient history, art history, classical studies, and anthropology. We shall proceed chronologically from the 18th century BCE, when the Minoans were in full flower, to the 12th century BCE, when the Mycenaen and most of the other civilization in the region collapsed. Along the way, as well as examining the material culture of the Mycenaen and Minoans, we shall also bring in, upon occasion, the relevant cultures in Egypt, Canaan, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Cyprus, and the western Mediterranean, including the Hittites, Trojans, Assyrians, Babylonians, Cypriotes, and Egyptians.

TEXTS
Jerry Rutter’s Web site: http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/index.html
NB: Additional material will be placed on BlackBoard.

The reading assignments are listed according to the dates by which they are to be completed. Students are expected to come to class already having done the assigned reading and prepared to take part in the discussions that will take place during class time. The seminar will be driven more by participant discussion and less by “professorial data dump.” It is anticipated that weekly reading assignments will be given out to participants, with each being responsible for a viewpoint or set of information that will be relevant to that discussion. In order for the class sessions to be effective, therefore, it will be necessary for each student to keep up with the readings, attend all class sessions, and participate fully in the discussions.

GRADING
There will be a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam, each worth 35 points; a 10-page research paper worth 20 points; and class participation/presentations worth 10 points. The course grade will be determined by combining all possible points, for a total of 100 points.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
As a result of completing this course, students will be able to:
1. discuss the Bronze Age Aegean, from the 18th – 12th centuries BCE
2. comment on the Bronze Age Aegean’s involvement in the wider Mediterranean world
3. think and write critically concerning the above
CLASS POLICIES

 Regular class attendance is mandatory. For every three unexcused absences, the final semester grade may be lowered by one full grade (an “A” drops to a “B”) at the discretion of the instructor.

 Use of cell phones during class time for any reason is strictly forbidden, whether for calls, texting, games, or anything else.

 Similarly, use of laptops during class time for anything other than note taking is also strictly forbidden; this includes Gmail, Facebook, chats, games, and anything else that will preclude the user from participating fully in classroom interaction and discussions.

 Violators will have their cell phones and laptops confiscated.

 There will be no makeups given except in extreme emergencies and late assignments will not be accepted for a grade.

 The standard University system will be used to assign letter grades as follows: A = 92-100; A- = 90-91; B+ = 88-89; B = 82-87; B- = 80-81; C+ = 78-79; C = 72-77; C- = 70-71; D+ = 68-69; D = 62-67; D- = 60-61; F = 0-59.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html. It is expected that all graded work products and assignments will be completed in conformance with The George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

SECURITY

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.
LECTURES AND TOPICS

Jan 17 (T) Overview of course syllabus and objectives. History of Excavation and Scholarship.  
Readings: Cline, Chs. 1-2 (Muhly; Manning); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 1; Shelmerdine, Ch. 1

Jan 24 (T) Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (EBA) on the Greek Mainland, Crete, and the Islands.  
Discussion: Intellectual consequences of collecting and forgeries  
Readings: Cline, Chs. 3-6, 16, 49 (Tomkins; Forsen; Tomkins and Schoep; Renfrew; Tzonou-Herbst; Wiencke); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 2; Shelmerdine, Chs. 2-4 (Pullen; Broodbank; Wilson)
On BlackBoard: Gill and Chippindale 1993; Broodbank 1992

Jan 31 (T) 18th century (MM III): The First Minoan Palaces.  
Discussion: Minoans and Mesopotamia. The Pfaistos Disk. Linear A: Greek or Semitic?  
Readings: Cline, Chs. 8, 14, 26, 30 (Schoep; Hitchcock; Tomas; Hallager) plus 37, 40, 42, 44, and 55 (Macdonald; La Rosa; Driessen; Gauss); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 3; Shelmerdine, Chs. 5, 5A-B (Manning; Knappett); Rutter, Lessons 10-11
On BlackBoard: Helzer 1988, 1989; van Koppen 2007; Duhoux 2000

Feb 7 (T) 17th century (LH/LM/LC I): Akrotiri and the Santorini Volcano.  
Discussion: Dating of Thera Eruption. Aegean Painters in the Levant and Egypt.  
Readings: Cline, Chs. 9, 12, 34, 56 (Barber chaps; Manning; Doumas); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 4; Shelmerdine, Ch. 8 (Davis); Rutter, Lesson 17

Readings: Cline, Chs. 11, 14, 17 (Hallager; Hitchcock; Chapin) and skim Chs. 37-44; Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 4; Shelmerdine, Chs. 6-7, 9 (Younger and Rehak; Betancourt); Rutter, Lessons 12-15, 18
On BlackBoard: Koehl 1986a; Koehl 1986b; Niemeier 1988; Rehak 1998; Cline 1999a; Shaw 2004

Feb 21 (T) 15th century (LH II): Shaft Graves and Early Dynasts at Mycenae.  
Discussion: Assuwa Rebellion. Ahhiyawa.  
Readings: Cline, Chs. 9-10, 45, 50 (Voutsaki; Shelton; Voutsaki; French); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 5; Shelmerdine, Chs. 10-11, 13A (Wright; Crowley; Cavanagh); Rutter, Lessons 16, 19-21, 26

Feb 28 (T) No Class (Instructor at MSU)

March 6 (T) *** MIDTERM EXAM ***

March 13 (T) No Class — Spring Break

Discussion: Amenhotep III and the Aegean; Amarna Letters.
Readings: Cline, Chs. 16, 22, 31, 33 (Tzonou-Herbst; Burns; Rutter; Laffineur); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 5; Shelmerdine, Ch. 14 (Mee); Rutter, Lesson 22

March 27 (T) 14th/13th century (LH/LM IIIA/B): International Koine.
Discussion: The Ulu Burun Shipwreck. The Amarna Papyrus.
Readings: Cline, Chs. 59, 64 (Bass; Pulak); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 6; Shelmerdine, Ch. 14 (Mee); Rutter, Lesson 22
On BlackBoard: Bass 1987; Cline and Cline 1991; Schofield and Parkinson 1994; Pulak 1999, 2005; Cline 1999b; Bachhuber 2006; Cline and Yasur-Landau 2007b; Cline 2010

Discussion: Mycenae vs. Tiryns; Cypriot Wallbrackets at Tiryns; Enclave Colonies
Readings: Cline, Chs. 51-52, 54 (Davis; Dakouri-Hild; Maran); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 5; Shelmerdine, Chs. 10-11, 13A-B (Wright; Crowley; Cavanagh); Rutter, Lessons 19-21

April 10 (T) 13th century (LH/LM IIIB): Linear B Tablets and Mycenaean Social Organization.
Discussion: Hittite-Mycenaean trade and embargoes
Readings: Cline, Chs. 18, 27 (Nakassis, Galaty, and Pakinson; Palaima); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 5; Shelmerdine, Chs. 12A, 13B (Shelmerdine and Bennet; Palaima); Rutter, Lessons 24-25
On BlackBoard: Cline 1991a, 1991b; Mee 1998; Niemeier 1999

April 17 (T) Troy VI-VII, and the Historicity of the Trojan War.
Discussion: Troy’s importance in international trade
Readings: Cline, Chs. 35, 63 (Bryce; Jablonka); Rutter, Lessons 23, 27
On BlackBoard: Brandau 1998; Shanks 2002; Kolb 2004; Jablonka and Rose 2004; Korfmann 2004; Cline 2008

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April 24 (T) 12th century (LH IIIC): The Collapse. [PAPER DUE].

Discussion: Sea Peoples. Earthquake Storms and the End of the Bronze Age.

Readings: Cline, Chs. 13, 36 (Jung; Dickinson); Preziosi and Hitchcock, Ch. 6; Shelmerdine, Ch. 15 (Deger-Jalkotzy); Rutter, Lessons 28-29

On BlackBoard: Niemeier 1998; Nur and Cline 2000, 2001; Cline and O’Connor 2003; Maran 2009

May 8 (T) *** FINAL EXAM ***

BlackBoard Readings:


Koehl, Robert B. 1986a. The Chieftain Cup and a Minoan Rite of Passage. JHS 106: 99-110.


NB: The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.