COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Theatre

GENERAL INFORMATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>ENGINEERING</th>
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<tr>
<td>DEPARTMENT</td>
<td>CEID</td>
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<tr>
<td>COURSE LEVEL</td>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE</td>
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<td>COURSE CODE</td>
<td>CEID_TT23</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEMESTER OF STUDIES</td>
<td>3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>COURSE TITLE</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT THEATRE</td>
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INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES

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<tr>
<th>INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY</th>
<th>TEACHING HOURS PER WEEK</th>
<th>ECTS CREDITS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<th>COURSE TYPE</th>
<th>GENERAL KNOWLEDGE</th>
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PREREQUISITES

Introduction to Ancient Theatre, ATH011

INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION LANGUAGE

Greek (and English, Italian or French in case foreign students attend the course)

THE COURSE IS OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS

Yes (in English, Italian or French)

COURSE WEBPAGE (URL)

https://eclass.upatras.gr/courses/THE757/

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes

The course is an introduction, as complete as possible, to the archaeology of ancient Greek and Roman theatre. Thanks to a rich bibliography and independent readings, students will be encouraged to continue research on this topic.

The material which is presented during the class will introduce the students to the issues related to the archaeological testimonies (remains of ancient monuments, vase paintings, mosaics, clay figurines, wall paintings, etc.) which pertain to the ancient Greek and Roman theatre. Furthermore, students will be helped understanding the basic outline of an ancient theatre.

The aim of the course is that students understand the key issues in the archaeological research related to the ancient theatre and are able to make independent readings of texts about the topic of ancient theatre.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

- Become familiar with the iconography related to the ancient theatre (vase painting, clay production, mosaics, wall paintings) and be able to understand and interpret it
- Learn the terminology of the ancient Greek and Roman theatre
- Be able to recognize and describe with proper archaeological and architectural terminology an ancient Greek or
Roman theatre

- Discuss in class, with their university colleagues and under the supervision of the instructor, several texts (articles or chapters in books) which relate to the archaeology of the ancient theatre
- Know the most significant examples of theatrical architecture which survive in Greek and Asia Minor, as well as in Magna Graecia and Sicily, putting them in the context of the history and society of those times
- Understand the key issues which those who deal with the research, reconstruction and restoration of ancient theatrical buildings have to face.

General skills

By the end of this course the student will, furthermore, have developed the following skills (general abilities):

Autonomous (independent) work
Exercise of criticism and self-criticism
Promotion of free, creative and inductive thinking

COURSE CONTENT

I. Introduction to archaeology (methods, goals, importance) and discussion of its relevance for the research in ancient theatre
II. Terms and concepts: terminology of the ancient theatre, philological sources which provide information about ancient theatre, the iconography which relates to ancient theatre (vase painting, representations on mosaics, clay figurines, wall paintings). Basic archaeological terminology
III. The earliest theatrical buildings: Thorikos, Rhamnous, Ikarion in Attica, Euonymon, Acharnes. Analysis of the typology of the so-called “theatre with rectilinear seats”. The orchestra in the Ancient Agora of Athens and the related problems. The cult of Dionysus and its importance for the birth of ancient drama
IV. The musical contests, and especially the dramatic contests. The Athenian society during the Classical age and the role of women and slaves in this society. Basic outline of the topography of ancient Athens. Uses of theatres besides dramatic performances. The public of theatres and the city
V. Detailed presentation of the Theatre of Dionysus at Athens
VI. Ancient theatrical buildings outside Attica during the Classical period: Chaeroneia, Argos, Isthmia, Corinth. First elements regarding the architectural development of the ancient Greek theatre. Choregy in ancient Athens and some choregic monuments. The decorative elements of ancient theatres (sculptures, the role of inscriptions) and their relationship with the circulation of spectators in theatres
VII. Theatrical buildings during the Hellenistic period: transformations, evolution, typologies of theatres. The introduction of the two-storeyed skene. Ancient theatres with movable scene: Sparta, Megalopolis, Messene. The Hellenistic world, a “cosmopolitan” society
VIII. The theatres at Epidaurus and Delos, two representative examples of a Hellenistic theatre. Acoustics of ancient theatres
IX. Scenery, theatrical machinery, costumes and masks, and scenic supply. The profession of actor in ancient times
X. Ancient theatres outside Greece: Asia Minor, Magna Graecia, Sicily. Brief introduction to the most representative examples and their importance in the evolutionary process of the ancient theatre
XI. The Roman theatre, with special attention to the evolution of theatres in Greece during the imperial period. Differences between theatrical buildings of the Greek and of the Roman type. The typology of the roofed theatre of small dimensions (odeion) and its functions.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

| INSTRUCTION METHOD | Lectures in class (face to face) |
Visit to (an) ancient theatre(s)

**USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) (PowerPoint) in teaching. The lectures content of the course for each chapter, as well as assigned readings, are uploaded on the internet, in the form of a series of PDF files, which students can freely download (e-class platform).

**INSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION**

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<th>Activities</th>
<th>Semester student workload</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures (3 hours per week x 13 weeks)</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent study</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of hours for the Course</strong></td>
<td>75 hours</td>
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<td>(25 hours of workload per ECTS credit)</td>
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**STUDENTS’ EVALUATION**

1. Written examination after the end of the semester (75%) which includes:
   - interpretation and comments about a picture related to the ancient theatre
   - two questions which request the discussion of a topic
2. Discussions in class about assigned readings (25%)

Minimum passing grade: 5

Erasmus students will have the possibility of submitting a written research on an assigned topic instead of passing written examinations

**RECOMMENDED LITERATURE**

**General bibliography:**
- H.-D. Blume, Einführung in das antike Theaterwesen (Darmstadt 1984)
- J.-Ch. Moretti, Théâtre et société dans la Grèce antique (Paris 2001)

**For the independent readings (and discussions in class):**
- G. Sifakis, High stage and chorus in the Hellenistic theater, BICS 10, 1963, 31-45
- H.W. Parke, Festivals of the Athenians (London 1977)
- F. Dupont, L’acteur-roi, ou le théâtre dans la Rome antique (Paris 1985)
- L. Bruit Zaidman – P. Schmitt Pantel, La religion grecque dans les cités à l’époque classique (Paris 1999)
- D. Wiles, Greek Theatre Performance: An Introduction (Cambridge 2000)

- Articles published in the journal «Λογεῖον»